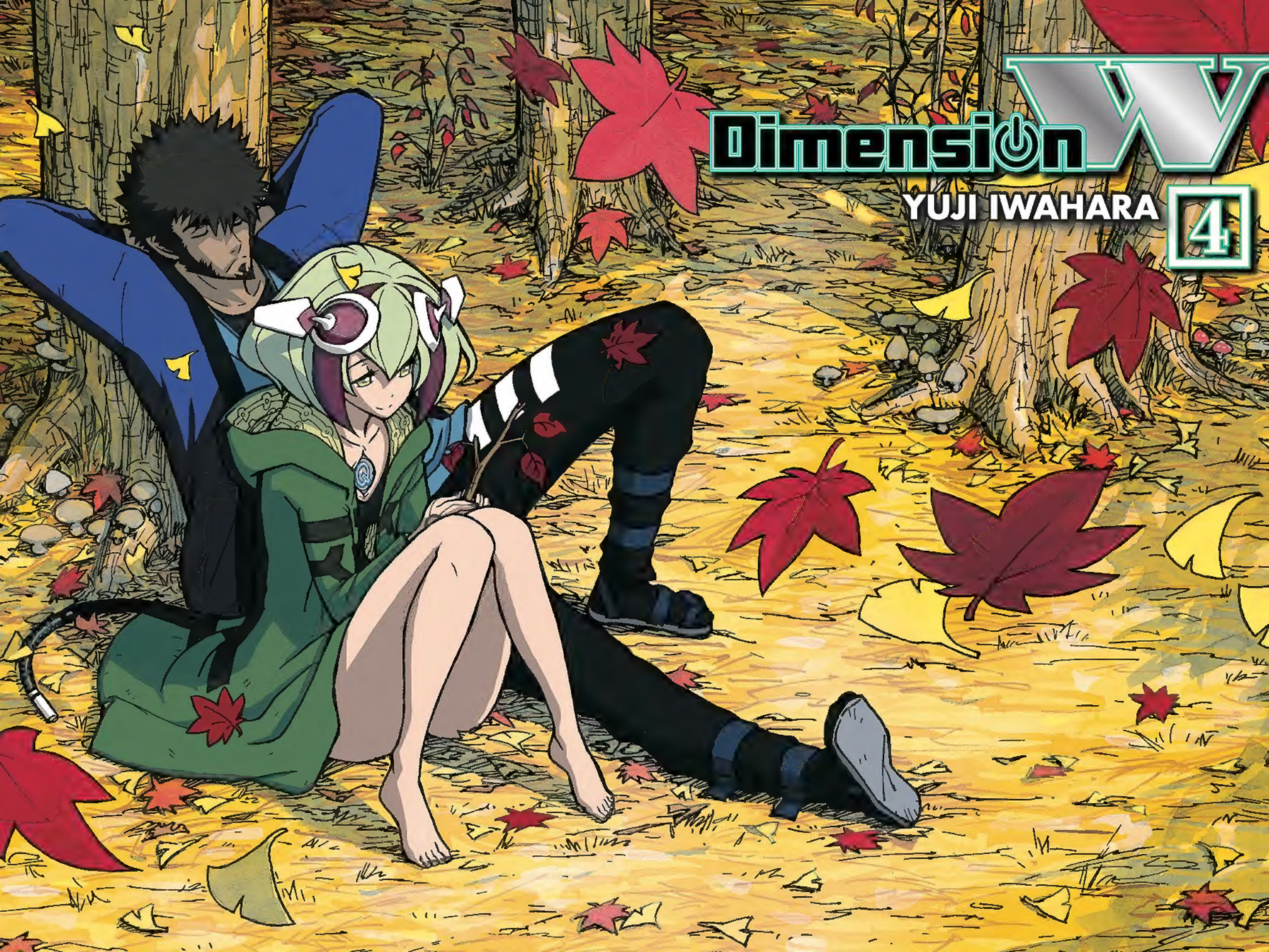
Dimension W

YUJI IWAHARA

I AM "SHIJUUROU SAKAKI FROM TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO."

I AM THE ONE YOU SPEAK OF...

—YES ...


Dimension W
YUJI IWAHARA
4

CONTENTS

FILE.24 / THE BLACK BOOK — 001

FILE.25 / ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE — 029

FILE.26 / NIGHTMARE IN THE FOG — 053

FILE.27 / SIMILAR YET WORLDS APART — 079

FILE.28 / DOWN THE HOLE — 103

FILE.29 / THE TRUTH OF 21YEARS AGO — 129

FILE.30 / TEARS OF BLOOD — 153

FILE.31 / FLOWER OF ASBESTOS — 181

3-D MODEL DESIGN: TOSHIKAZU SENBA

STATUS REPORT!

AN UNKNOWN ASSAILANT SHOT THE BARRIER BALLOON DOWN FROM ABOVE, KNOCKING OUT THE LOCKDOWN FIELD!

AT THE SAME TIME, ALL OF THE LIGHTS ACROSS THE ISLAND WERE DESTROYED! NOW SWITCHING TO AUXILIARY VISUAL SCANNERS AND FLASH-LIGHTS!

PI (BLIP)

REQUEST BACKUP FROM HQ!

I CAN'T GET THROUGH!

THEY'VE TAKEN CONTROL OF THE BALLOON'S SATELLITE DRONES!

THEY'RE USING THEM TO JAM COMMUNI-CATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE!

BU

BU

BU (WHRR)

POLICE

PI

PI

USE THE FLASH-LIGHTS FROM BEHIND COVER!

SECURE THE VE-HICLES!

GET MOV-ING!

.....

DAM-MIT...

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN ?

WHY WOULD ANY-ONE...

...DO THIS...?

KIYOMI?

HEH HEH HEH!

IT'S REALLY QUITE SIMPLE, MISTRESS MARISA.

WHY, BECAUSE THE ***PRIZE*** ON THE LINE IS WORTH THAT MUCH.

BARI (RIP)

SORRY, BUT YOUR LOYAL MAID...

BERI (PEELS)

BERI

...IS FAST ASLEEP IN ANOTHER ROOM!

EASY, NOW! DON'T START SCREAM-ING ON ME!

HYU (WHOOSH)

!!?

YOU'RE ...

GU (PRESS)

WE ALREADY KNOW THE WHOLE STORY.

HOW YOU AND YOUR BROTHER SHIJUUROU ARE SURVIVORS FROM THE ACCIDENT TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO.

HOW YOU CHANGED YOUR NAMES AND CAME BACK TO YASOGAMI TO FIND THE NUMBERS.

'COS BLUE'S ONE SMART COOKIE.

PLUS, WELL...

...AIN'T NOTHING OUT THERE THE THREE OF US CAN'T STEAL.

H-HOW... DO YOU...?

...AND HID IT AWAY.

HOW YOU FISHED IT UP...

THANKS TO HIM, WE'RE STUCK PULLING OFF THIS PAIN-IN-THE-ASS PLAN NOW.

BUT HE JUST HAD TO GO AND CROAK BEFORE WE GOT OUR CHANCE.

...IN THE ORIGINAL PLAN, ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS THREATEN YOUR BROTHER INTO GIVING UP ITS LOCATION.

...TO WHERE YOU STASHED THE NUMBERS.

YOU'RE GONNA LEAD US...

HERE'S HOW IT'S GONNA BE—

WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW? I WAS RIGHT ON THE MONEY.

KUH!

GASHAAN (SHATTER)

BA (SHOVE)

YOU...

Y...

ゴロ

GORO (ROLL)

ONE OF NEW TESLA'S LICENSED COLLEC-TORS!

YOU'RE THAT SCHMUCK ...

グイッ

GUI (SQUEEZE)

NGH!

SO WHAT IF WE ARE?

HA!

YOU AND YOUR PALS ARE COL-LECTORS FOR THE SYNDICATE, THEN?

LEMME GUESS. YOU'RE UN-LICENSED?

WE'RE NOT HANDING OUR CASH COW OVER TO YOU!

ON THE BLACK MARKET, IT'LL NET US A BILLION YEN, EASY!

AND THIS TIME OUR MARK IS ONE OF THE NUM-BERS!!

THAT'S ALL IT MEANS.

WE SELL TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, WHETHER THAT'S THE SYNDICATE OR NOT.

THIS AIN'T ABOUT CASH.

THOSE THINGS SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN LET LOOSE ON THE WORLD...

...IN THE FIRST PLACE.

DON'T MAKE ME FIGHT YOU.

SHUT THE HELL UP!

SHUPIN (SHING)

HYU (WHIZ)

TSK!

BASA (FLAP)

バサッ

BARARA (CLATTER)

ロロロ

ラ

!

BAPA (PAPOP)

パパパ

BOFU (BOOF)

ボフッ

PAN

パン

NO—

DID YOU KILL HIM?

BLUE!

THIS WAY, RED! QUICK-LY!

ヒュ‴
HYU (WHIZ)

BLUE!

.....

BA (WHOOSH)

DOSU (THNK)

EAT THIS!

KACHI (CHIK)

十二

ガチャ

DOU (BOOM)

BAGA (CRACK)

GA

DOU

NICE SAVE, WHITE!

GET ON!

NOW!

SA (SLIP)

BAGYA (CRACK)

DOU

TAKE US OUT!

BUOO

TCH!

NOT ON MY WATCH.

MOKO (RUFFLE)

MOKO

POWAN (POING)

OH NO! THEY'LL GET AWAY!

PATA (FLUTTER)

PATA

NUMBER 9! NUMBER 10!

GO!

KII (SCREECH)

BA (THWAP)

SUTA (TAMP)

ANY LUCK, MABU-CHI?

FUN (HMPH)

THERE. WE SHOULDN'T LOSE SIGHT OF THEM.

NOPE, THANKS TO MY HAPPI COAT HERE.

...ARE YOU HURT?

JARA (CLINK)

IT'S LINED WITH STEEL AND METAL SKEWERS.

OUR HUNCH WAS RIGHT. THE SAKAKI SIBLINGS KNEW ABOUT ***YOUR COIL.***

THE OTHER COLLECTORS PLAN ON FORCING MARISA TO TAKE 'EM TO IT.

WHAT'S THAT?

...I CAN ONLY THINK OF ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION ...

EVEN THE BUREAU WAS LESS WELL-IN-FORMED.

BUT HOW?

...OUR NEW ADVER-SARIES KNEW EVERY-THING, THEN?

GREAT. IF YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, THEN YOU'RE AFTER THE NUMBERS TOO?

KURODA'S NOTES?

KURODA'S NOTES.

"KURODA"... IF I'M REMEMBERIN' RIGHT, HE'S THE ONE WHO ORIGINALLY LENT OUT THE NUMBERS TO THE ANTI-DAM MOVEMENT.

YES. HIM.

THE PRO-FESSOR, RIGHT?

WE'RE IN A RACE AGAINST THE CLOCK NOW.

THIS IS NO TIME TO BE CARING ABOUT APPEAR-ANCES.

...WEREN'T WE GOING TO KEEP THAT A SECRET, ELLIE?

IT NEVER EVEN CROSSED MY MIND THAT ANYONE OTHER THAN MYSELF MIGHT HAVE REALIZED THEIR TRUE SIGNIFI-CANCE.

THE ONLY INFORMATION SHE REVEALED WAS THAT HIS NOTES DESCRIBE THE GHOSTS OF YASOGAMI.

!

I SLIPPED UP AND MENTIONED THEM ON MY BLOG...

THAT TRUE?

...ACTUALLY, KENJIROU KURODA WAS MISS MISUZU'S GRANDFATHER. SHE ALSO HAPPENS TO BE THE ONE WHO DIVULGED THE EXISTENCE OF HIS NOTES.

HIS EXPERTISE AS A PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS ALLOWED HIM TO SEE THE TRUTH BEHIND YASOGAMI'S "HAUNTED LAKE."

...WHILE VISITING YASOGAMI IN SECRET, AFTER HE LEFT THE WORLD OF ACADEMIA AS PENANCE FOR THE ACCIDENT.

K.K.

KURODA PENNED THOSE NOTES...

WELL...

BY THE TIME I'D CALLED ON MISS MISUZU, THEY WERE ALREADY GONE.

STOLEN !?

THEY WERE STOLEN BEFORE WE CAME HERE.

THE REAL REASON I MADE THE TRIP HERE...

...WHERE ARE THESE NOTES NOW, THEN?

...IS BECAUSE I WANTED TO CONFIRM MY GRANDPA'S RESEARCH, ACTUALLY.

THOSE COLLECTOR THUGS ARE OUR ROBBERS. THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT.

ZAA (FSSH)

WITH KURODA'S NOTES IN THEIR POSSESSION, THEY AREN'T MAKING ANY BLIND GUESSES.

THAT GIVES THEM A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE OVER US.

AAA

AAA

YOU OKAY, BLUE?

YEAH.

THIS WON'T SET THE PLAN BACK.

GURU (TWIST)

GURU

GYU (TUG)

...NOW FOR THE NEXT PHASE.

SLIPPING THROUGH THE SECURITY STOLE US EIGHTEEN SECONDS OF CONTROL.

THAT'S PROBABLY THE MOST WE CAN GET.

YOU SHOULD FRY THEM WITH THE SATELLITE LASER AGAIN.

MARISA SAKAKI... IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO "DREAM" FOR US.

.....!!

IT'S ALL WRITTEN IN HERE.

SOMEHOW, YOUR DREAMS CONNECT THIS WORLD TO THE WORLD BEYOND.

DON'T WASTE TIME PLAYING DUMB.

!!?

AFTER THAT, THEY STOPPED TAKING VICTIMS.

AS A RESULT, YOU CAME BACK HERE AND MADE SOME KIND OF DEAL WITH "THEM."

YOU WENT TO PROFESSOR KURODA FOR ADVICE ON YOUR "DREAMS."

...BUT THEY DIDN'T KILL YOU— THE "KEY" CONNECTING BOTH WORLDS.

IN ORDER TO KEEP THE NUMBERS HIDDEN—OR MAYBE IT WAS FOR REVENGE— THEY KILLED SHIJUUROU AND HAGEYAMA, WHO BOTH KNEW IT WAS HERE...

"THEY" MADE ONE MISTAKE.

D...

DON'T...

WE DON'T CARE IN THE LEAST WHAT HAPPENED TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO, OR WHY YOU SEE THOSE "DREAMS."

HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS—WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN THEM OR IN YOUR PAST.

DON'T DO THIS!

STOP!

I BEG YOU!

...!!

WE NEED YOU TO GO OFF TO THE LAND OF DREAMS...

GHA (CHK)

...IS TO STEAL THE NUMBERS.

THE ONLY THING WE WANT ...

...TO THE NUMBERS THAT APPEARS IN THE FOG.

HUFF!

HUFF!

HUFF!

...SO YOU CAN LEAD US...

CHARGE THROUGH THE BRIDGE!

THE BRIDGE!

YOUR ORDERS, INSPEC-TOR!

...THEY BETTER NOT HAVE HURT MY CAR...

BUT SIR, THE LIGHTS ON THE VEHICLES ARE OUT TOO—

RUN!

USE YOUR DAMN FEET!

IT SHOULD WORK!

IF WE LEAVE THE ISLAND, WE'LL BE OUT OF THE SIGNAL JAMMING AND CAN CALL HEAD-QUARTERS FOR BACK-UP...

I CAN'T HELP THAT THEIR HOVERDISK IS FASTER THAN MY BATS... OKAY?

I'M STILL TRACKING THEM DOWN! DON'T RUSH ME.

WHERE ARE THE THIEVES NOW?

...THERE'S ONE PAIR OF FEET THAT COULD CATCH UP TO 'EM RIGHT QUICK EVEN IN PITCH DARK.....

WHAT NOW, MABU-CHI?

DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM YOUR GRAMPS'S NOTES?

HE ALWAYS TOLD ME NOT TO TOUCH THEM... I-I'M SORRY.

TICKS ME OFF TO ADMIT IT, BUT SHE'S OUR BEST BET NOW...

AAARGH!

HOW SHOULD I KNOW!?

DID THEY DESTROY HER?

WHERE IS SHE? OH MY GOD. DO YOU THINK...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT'S ODD THAT SHE ISN'T HERE.

YOU MEAN MIRA?

.....

THE FOG...

THE...

!?

(NOWAWA (BILLOW)

ヒフ

IT'S COMING FOR US!!!

ooo (HWOO)

...IT SEEMS...

...THAT THE NIGHTMARE HAS BEGUN AGAIN.

...TO REALITY.

THE NIGHTMARE THAT LINKS THIS FALSE WORLD CHAINED TO THE PAST...

...A PUNISHMENT FOR OUR SINS.

...AND UPON WE GHOSTS WHO CAN NEVER JOIN REALITY.

A CURSE UPON A REALITY THAT WANTS TO FORGET THE PAST...

...THIS IS A CURSE.

!!?

BUWA (FWOOM)

THE FOG IS HEEERE!

HYAAAH!

FFFOOGG!

FUO (WHOOSH)

ア゛!!!

?

...FOG?

GA HA!

KILL!!

AH HA HA!

...!!

KILL THEM!

KILL THEM!

HEE!

ARE YOU ALIVE?

OR ARE YOU DEAD?

I'LL ASK AGAIN.

AH HA HA!

WHY ?

WHY ARE THEY SO OVERCOME WITH HATE?

NO MATTER HOW WE CAME TO BE, OR WHAT FORM WE TAKE...

...WE'RE HERE NOW, CONVERSING AS LIVING, THINKING BEINGS.

IF YOU ASK ME...

I...

I'M AN ANDROID. THAT'S NOT...

I'M GOING TO KEEP THIS WORLD SAFE.

I WON'T LET ANYONE CLAIM THAT THIS WORLD IS MAKE-BELIEVE.

!

YOU'RE NO EXCEPTION.

EVEN MYSELF.

...FOR THAT CAUSE.

I'M READY TO DISPOSE OF ANYONE...

FILE.25
ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE

WHAT IS THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS WORLD... AND HOW CAN IT BE STOPPED?

THINK. THINK!

AN INTANGIBLE VIRTUAL REALITY.

CAN I, LIKE, KILL HER?

HEY.

THIS PLACE IS THE MEMORY OF YASOGAMI FROM TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO, STORED INSIDE DIMENSION W...

IS HE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF SHIJUUROU SAKAKI— FOR HIS OWN DEATH?

IS HE THE MURDERER?

HEE HEE!

BECAUSE THEY'RE COPIES ...

ALTHOUGH FOR ALL WE KNOW, MAYBE SHE CAN'T BE KILLED! MAYBE SHE'LL SUFFER ENDLESSLY, JUST LIKE US!

SUIT YOURSELF.

.EVERYONE CONTINUES TO "LIVE" HERE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEIR PHYSICAL SELVES DIED.

...THEN THERE'S MR. HAGE-YAMA...

HE SAID HE WAS AN OLD FRIEND OF THEIRS, BUT HIS NAME DOESN'T COME UP IN ANY OF THE RECORDS EITHER.....

...WHY IS THAT?

EVEN ACCOUNTING FOR ALIASES, NONE OF THE VICTIMS LISTED COULD HAVE BEEN THE SAKAKI SIBLINGS.

HIS AND HIS SISTER'S NAMES ARE BOTH ABSENT FROM RECORDS OF THE ACCIDENT TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO.

ISHII, TAROU

AIKAWA

KIICHI, KAORI

MORINA YOSHI

FUJII,GOUTA

SUZUKI, EITA

MR. SHI-JUUROU!

AND IF THEY WERE ONE OF THE OFFENDERS, THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT NAMES WERE WITHHELD FROM THE RECORDS...!

IF THEY WERE MINORS...

THEN THE RECORDS ...

SHIROU KAMIKI.

.....

PLEASE...

BEFORE YOU LEAVE, TELL ME YOUR REAL NAME!

YEEK!

BASHI (BASH)

BYU (FWOOSH)

SHIROU... KAMIKI...

HE'S MY MAN NOW.

UGH!

DON'T YOU DARE CALL HIS NAME!

YOU'RE TRYING TO STEAL HIM FROM ME TOO, AREN'T YOU?

PUTTING ON A PRETTY FACE...

IT MAKES ME SICK!

I'LL RIP YOU TO SHREDS! YOU'LL BE AN UGLY MONSTER THEN!

JUST LIKE THAT WENCH DID!

...TO MY BODY...

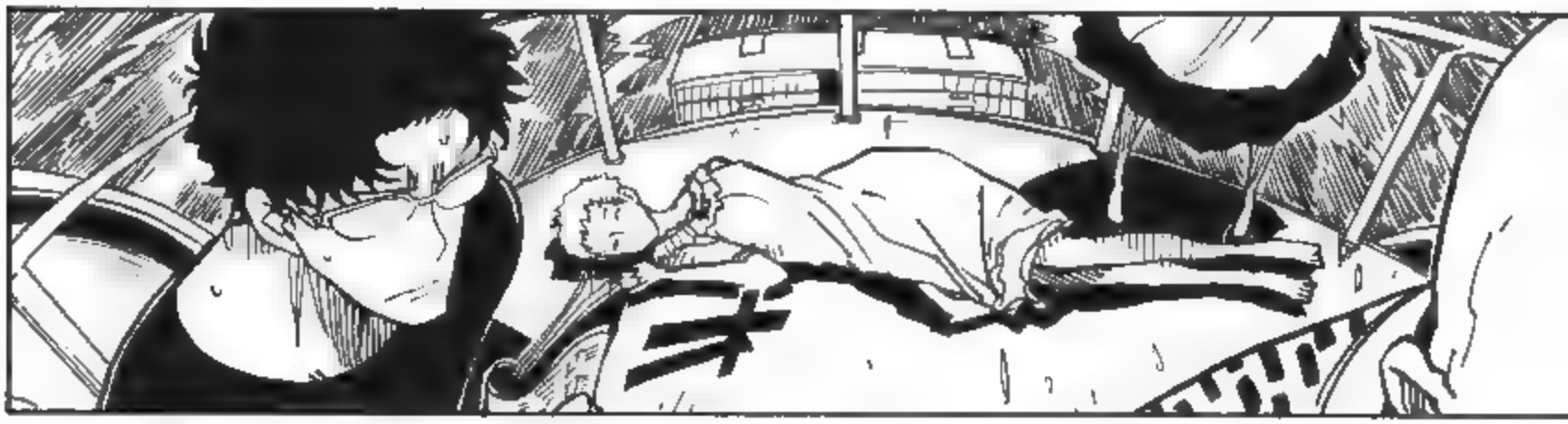
I HAVE TO HURRY AND UNDO THIS LINK... RETURN TO REALITY...

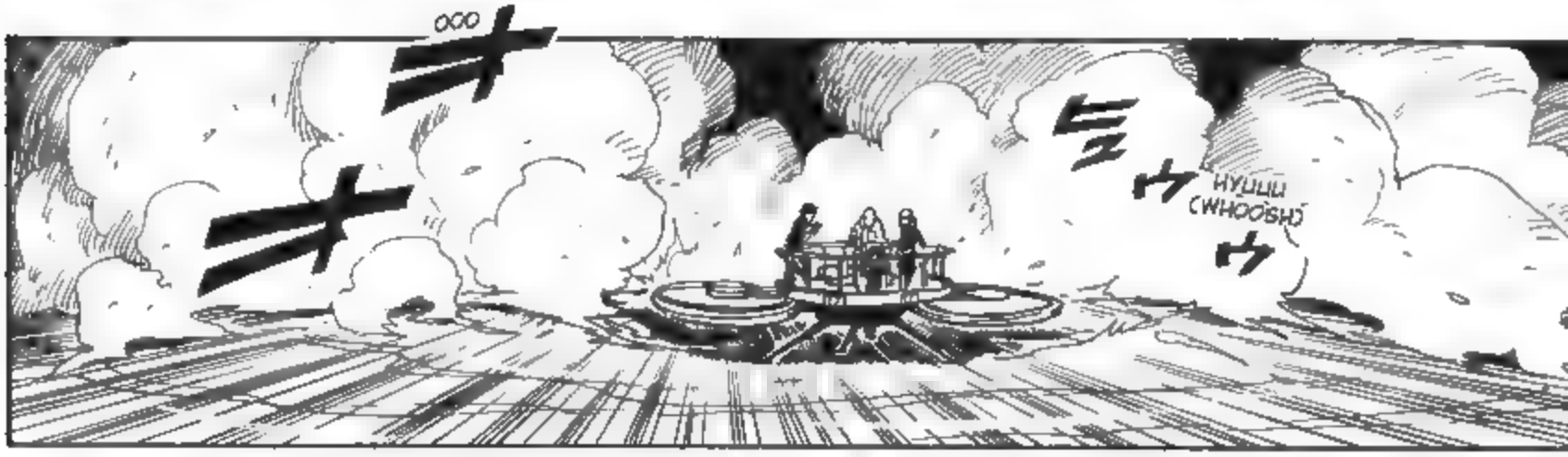
HURRY ...

I HAVE TO TELL MR. KYOUMA EVERYTHING I JUST LEARNED!

I HAVE TO TELL HIM...

GOO.
CRRMJ.




HYUUUU
(WHOOSH)

WE'RE GOING INTO IT.
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM.
BLUE! THE FOG'S ABOUT TO OVERTAKE US!

YOU GUYS HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

BJOOO (RRRM)

GU (TJRN)

HANG ON TIGHT!

THIS IS A COMMON QUESTION.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT DIMENSION W?

FOUR YEARS EARLIER, SHIDOU YURIZAKI LECTURE HALL

DOES IT TRULY EXIST?

NT ENERGY

百合崎士堂

WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS DIMENSION W, EXACTLY?

WHAT CAN BE FOUND THERE?

SIGN: SHIDOU YURIZAKI

IT HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVEN THAT THERE IS NO MATTER IN DIMENSION W. NOT A SINGLE ATOM.

MATTER IS A CONCEPT EXCLUSIVE TO OUR DIMENSION.

THE THEORY THAT THERE ARE COUNTLESS PARALLEL WORLDS, EACH SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM ONE ANOTHER, IS IN FACT INCORRECT.

THE CONCEPT OF MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS IS OFTEN MISUNDER-STOOD.

THAT IS THE ESSENCE OF DIMENSION W.

IT IS A BILLOWING SEA OF ENERGY WAVES THAT, MUCH LIKE A QUANTUM, EXISTS IN NEITHER STATE UNTIL AN OUTSIDE FORCE INTERCEDES.

IT IS A NULL INFINITE.

WITHIN DIMENSION W, THERE IS NOTHING, AND THERE IS EVERYTHING.

BOFUO (BILLOW)

ボフォ

"I

WE REFER TO THOSE WAVES AS "WAVES OF POSSIBILITY."

THIS FOG...

INSPEC-TOR...

.....

HYUUUU (FWOO)

ヒュ

ウ

ウ

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

HEY!

ZUO. (WHOOM)

ズオ

"

AUGH!

THE FOG'S TOO THICK. CAN'T SEE A THING ...

CHA (CHK)

WAAARGH!

OFFI-CER!

AGK!

AN-SWER ME!

KUH...!

GU (GYAN)

BITA (SPLICK)

!!

TATA (TMP)

ZURU (SLIP)

DAMN IT!

VEHICLE: SHINSHUU

THE COMMS VAN...

!

信州

POLIC

BITAN (SLAM)

!?

GORO (ROLL)
ゴロ…
BA (LEAP)
!!
GAPA (CLACK)
ガパ…
PI (BEEP)
ピ
城島由歩
OPEN
PHONE: AYUMU JOUSHIMADA
SHIT!
ヒ
ドゴ (OOM)
ドゴ
ヒ
PIKU (JERK)
ピク
BASHIN- (SLAM)
バシン

!?

PASHA (SPLAT)

HAA!

HFF!

IS THIS...

...WATER?

IN...

INSPEC-TOR!

.....

GURA

GURA

NOW WHAT!?

GURA (WOBBLE)

WHOA!

GLRAA

敬吹

ooo...

oo...

VEHICLE: SHINSHUU POLICE

NOOOO!

BAHYU (HURL)

ZABA (ZBASH)

!

HYUUU (WHOOSH)

YOU CLUELESS DITZ! WEREN'T YOU LISTENING TO SHIROU?

THE NIGHTMARE LINKS THIS WORLD TO THAT ONE.

...A POLICE VAN!?

GOBO (GLUG)

GOBOBO

ゴボゴボ

GOBO

ゴボ

...USING THE POWER OF THE FOG!

...AND EVEN TEACH THEM A LESSON...

GOBO

ゴボ

GOBO

ゴボ

RIGHT NOW, WE CAN SEE IT...

FWOOO (WHOO)

...I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND MY BODY, AND RETURN TO IT...

IF BOTH WORLDS ARE CONNECTED ...

THE "GHOSTS" HAVE NO PHYSICAL BODIES. THE LAKE WATER GIVES THEM "POWER" AND "FORM."

IT'S LAKE WATER?

TO BE PRECISE, THIS PARTICULAR FOG CONSISTS OF WATER FROM LAKE YASOGAMI.

FOG IS ONLY ANOTHER STATE OF WATER.

OKAY, THIS FOG SHIT IS GIVING ME THE HEEBIE-JEEBIES...

BLOOD CRRMD

HE CONCLUDES THAT "THE SPACE AND PERSONALITIES OF THE TIME WERE STORED IN THE WATER'S DIMENSION W FIELD"...

ACCORDING TO KURODA'S NOTES ...

..."WITHIN YASOGAMI LAKE, THERE EXISTS A BODY OF 'WATER' THAT HAS BEEN FUNDAMENTALLY AND PERMANENTLY CHANGED BY THE EVENTS OF TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO, SUCH THAT IT NO LONGER FLOWS WITH THE CURRENT OF THE LAKE, BUT RESTS IN PLACE ETERNALLY."

...AND THAT THE ***NUMBERS*** IS WHAT CREATED AND PRESERVES IT ALL.

百舍崎士堂

YOU MENTIONED THESE "WAVES OF POSSIBILITY."

YES? WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION?

SU (SSK)

SIGN: SHIDOU YURIZAKI

THAT IS AN EXCELLENT QUESTION.

IF SO, WHY DO THE COILS YOU DEVELOPED EXTRACT ONLY ELECTRICAL ENERGY?

...DO YOU PROPOSE, THEN, THAT DIMENSION W HOLDS INFINITE POSSIBILITIES?

NOW, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF ONE WERE TO DRIP INK ONTO ITS SURFACE?

ink

...AND IT IS SLIGHTLY DAMPENED.

THE PAPER REPRESENTS DIMENSION W...

IP

PA (BLIP)

IMAGINE, IF YOU WOULD, A BLANK PIECE OF DRAWING PAPER AND A BOTTLE OF INK.

THE INK WOULD SPLATTER IN ALL DIRECTIONS FROM THE POINT OF CONTACT WITH GREAT FORCE.

AND THEN...

...IT WOULD CONTINUE TO SPREAD FARTHER AND FARTHER AS IT SOAKS IN.

DIMENSION W'S "WAVES OF POSSIBILITY" TOOK THAT FIRST DROP, AND BUILT IT INTO SUCH A BIG AND BEAUTIFUL UNIVERSE.

THIS IS HOW I IMAGINE THE BEGINNING OF THE UNIVERSE, AND ITS EXPANSION INTO THE FORM IT TAKES TODAY.

DIMENSION W HAS EXISTED SINCE BEFORE THE BIRTH OF THE UNIVERSE.

NOW, IMAGINE THIS.

A "DROP OF GOD" GAVE BIRTH TO THE UNIVERSE.

I DO NOT DENY THE OPINION THAT IT WAS GOD.

...WHENEVER THIS SUBJECT ARISES, ONE QUESTION IS CERTAIN TO COME UP—WHO, THEN, RELEASED THAT FIRST DROPLET?

HOW WILL THE NEW INK SPREAD?

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE WERE TO RELEASE THE TINIEST OF DROPLETS ONTO IT?

WHAT IF...

WHAT IF, HYPOTHETICALLY, A NEW DROP WERE TO BE ADDED TO OUR PAPER?

ENERGY

THEY WERE DESIGNED TO BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE ONLY THAT.

COILS...

INTERDIMENSIONAL ELECTROMAGNETIC INDUCTION DEVICES... WERE MEANT TO DRAW ELECTRICAL ENERGY FROM DIMENSION W.

SHŌN: SHIDOU YURIZAKI

...SLEEPS INFINITE POSSIBILITIES. POSSIBILITIES THAT FAR SURPASS ANYTHING WE COULD EVER IMAGINE!

WITHIN DIMENSION W ITSELF...

HOWEVER, IN ACTUALITY, WITHIN COILS— NO...

IT WAS TRUE. FOR A NUMBERS, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE...

HEH HEH HEH...

...AS LONG AS YOU'VE UNRAVELED THE TRUE NATURE OF THE POSSIBILITY...

UOO (WHOOM)

ウオオ

WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

BLUE!

RED!

TAKE THIS!

ヒュ〜〜 BYU (FLING)

ガパ (CLICK)

キュッ KYU (SQUEAK)

BLAST THEM WITH IT!

WHAT'S THIS THING?

パシ (CATCH)

YOU CREEPY FREAK!

TAKE THIS!

TSK!

ウオオ JOA (ORGH)

FUSHUUUU (PSSHH)

フシュルルルル

OO (OOM)

十

十

十

PAKI (CLINK)

十

BAGA (SHATTER)

NO MATTER WHAT SPECIAL POWERS THEY HAVE, WATER'S STILL WATER.

FREEZE THE WATER, AND THEY'RE POWERLESS.

COLD!

IT'S LIQUID NITRO-GEN.

JESUS, BLUE! WOULD IT HAVE KILLED YOU TO GIVE ME A WARNING?

I'VE GOT FROSTBITE HERE!

WE CAN PRESS DEEPER INTO THE FOG...

...AT OUR OWN PACE.

IT'S HERE, MABUCHI!

THE FOG HAS REACHED US!

GO FIND YOURSELVES A ROOM TO HOLE UP IN. SEAL THE DOOR AND WINDOWS.

I HIGHLY DOUBT SOMETHING SO SIMPLE WOULD HOLD THEM BACK.

HEY, DON'T KNOCK IT UNTIL YA TRY IT.

NOW THEN... GOD KNOWS WHAT'LL COME OUTTA THERE ...

I KNOW WHAT— GHOSTS!

VIRTUAL GHOSTS, AT THAT.

HYUUU (HWOO)

I WAS THINKING... IF THE SAKAKI SIBLINGS REALLY DID KNOW EVERYTHING...

...MAYBE THEY HAD SPECIAL SECURITY SET UP? UM, IN CASE OF GHOSTS?

HRM?

U-UMM...

CAN I OFFER A THEORY...?

AND HIS SISTER ISN'T EXACTLY HERE TO ASK!

BUT SHIJUUROU DIED ANYWAY!

I CAN SEE IT.

SECURITY... SOME KINDA BACKUP PLAN TO FIGHT OFF THE FOG, EH?

I'M GONNA GO AFTER 'EM ON MY OWN TERMS.

AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!?

ZA ZWSHD

IF YOU NEED IT, YOU CAN USE THE BUCKET OF BOLTS IN MY ROOM.

YOU LOT FIND THEIR GHOST-BUSTING GIMMICK, AND GET AS MANY PEOPLE TO SAFETY AS YOU CAN.

FILE.26

NIGHTMARE IN THE FOG

THIS WAY!

QUICKLY, EVERYONE!

DOWN-STAIRS!

INTO THE WINE CELLAR...!!

GASHAAN (SHATTER)

YEEK!

IT'S INSIDE!

HYUU (WHOO)

THE FOG...

WE SHOULD BE SAFE TH—

WE...

AAUGH!

BOFW (WHOOMF)

DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

MOVE! GO!

HURRY!

KILL.

KILL.

ZA (ZWIJF)

PIKA (FLASH)

SLAUGH-TER THEM ALL!

I'd hate for you to steal ahead of us...and we need a way to keep in contact as well.

He'll keep an eye on you for me.

That kid is Number 8.

KII

KII (SCREECH)

PAAA (GLOW)

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS THING?

HFF!

HAA!

WE'LL KEEP YOU UPDATED IF ANYTHING HAPPENS ON OUR SIDE TOO.

JUST DON'T GO BREAKING HIM!

TATA (PATTER)

TATA

TA

HFF!

HAA!

WHER-EVER YOU GO, HE'LL FOLLOW ...

...SO HE CAN ALSO LIGHT YOUR WAY THROUGH THE DARK.

Read-ing?

AI, where are you?

...I'M INSIDE SHIJUUROU SAKAKI'S STUDY.

PATA (FLAP)

PATA

Miss Midorikawa and I will locate your android.

We should start with your room, correct?

IF IT'S AS HOPELESSLY DUMB AS I THINK IT IS, IT SHOULD STILL BE IN THERE READING.

YEAH.

...and knew what the "ghosts" really are.

Only if we're right that he was involved in the accident twenty-one years ago...

...HE WOULD BE A MADMAN NOT TO KEEP IT IN THE ROOM WHERE HE SPENT THE MAJORITY OF HIS TIME.

IF HE TRULY DID DEVISE A MEANS TO COMBAT THE FOG...

I SEARCHED HIS STUDY MYSELF. DIDN'T FIND ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

...BUT THERE'S ONE PROBLEM, AL...

HE HAD TO HAVE KNOWN EVERYTHING— THAT'S WHY THEY EXECUTED HIM. THEY CONSIDERED HIM A TRAITOR.

...IT LOOKED LIKE SOME KINDA RITUAL.

THE IMAGE KOOROGI RESTORED SHOWED THE VICTIMS OF THE ACCIDENT SURROUNDING SHIJUUROU.

SOMETHING ORDINARY ...?

UMM...

...PERHAPS YOU SIMPLY DIDN'T NOTICE IT BECAUSE IT WAS ***SOMETHING ORDINARY.***

...IN THAT CASE...

FINALLY. MY FIRST GHOST.

SHUPIN (SHING)

SUU (SWRL)

WELL, HELLO...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

DIII...

DIIIE...

BA (CLEAP)

I'M GONNA WRANGLE ME ONE...

...AN' FORCE IT TO TAKE ME BACK TO THE NUMBERS!

ARE YOU MENTAL !?

SHU (FWIP)

SAKU (SHNK)

ZUZU (SWRL)

ZU

GUPA (GLUP)

TCH!

PAAN (SPLATTER)

GOAH!

JAKYU (SHA-KEEN)

ZUPA (SNIKT)

PA

WENT RIGHT THROUGH IT. ALMOST NO RESISTANCE.

GUJU (GWOOSH)

ZUPAPA (SNIK)

...AND YET HE CAN GRAB ME...!?

PATA (FLAP)

PATA PATA

ZA (ZWIP)

PASHAAN SMASHER

WHY'D THEY STOP?

HN?

ZUZUZU

ZUZU CSWRLJ

UGAA!

HAA...

We don't know anything about what they really are!

You were delusional to so much as consider it in the first place!

GUESS THESE GUYS WOULD BE TOUGH TO CAPTURE AFTER ALL.

TATA (CTMP)

WELL, WELL.

WE DO KNOW A COUPLE THINGS.

FIRST OF ALL, THEIR "BODIES" ARE MADE UP OF FOG. IF YOU ATTACK 'EM, THEY'LL TURN BACK INTO FOG, THEN RE-FORM AGAIN.

THE DENSER PARTS OF THEIR BODIES ARE PRACTICALLY WATER.

INSIDE THE FOG, THEY HAVE AGILITY AND STRENGTH GOING FOR 'EM, BUT...

...THE FOG ITSELF MOVES SLOWLY...

...AND THEY CAN'T MOVE BEYOND THE FOG.

IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE FOG IS A SPECIAL SCREEN THEY'RE BEIN' PROJECTED ONTO AS 3-D CG...

...AND THE NUMBERS IS THE PROJECTOR.

189

TO USE AN OLD-FASHIONED TERM, IT'S THE ULTIMATE VIRTUAL REALITY.

SO CATCHING ONE WAS NEVER IN THE CARDS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

HERE'S TO HOPING WE CAN FIND SUCH A PLACE INSIDE THE HOTEL.

...if yer hiding place is sturdy enough to hold up against a "supernatural" power that can lift a bus, anyway.

HYUUUUU (FWOO)

...BUT DOES THIS MEAN WE'LL BE SAFE SO LONG AS WE'RE HIDING IN A PLACE WHERE THE FOG CAN'T SLIP IN?

Yup...

IT'S THE ROOM AT THE END OF THE HALL!

OLP!

CHEF MURO!!

HUFF! HAA!

THE FOG'S THICKENING!

HURRY!

I HAVE THE KEY HERE!

CHEF MURO!

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO FOR HIM! INSIDE! HURRY!

GACHA (KACHAK)

IT'S OPEN!

BATAN (SLAM)

GACHA (CLICK)

GII (CREAK)

L-LOCK THE DOOR!

IT SHOULD HOLD!

DON

BIR (CRACK)

BRI

DON

PISHI (CRACK)

DON (BAM)

DON

DO

HERE. WE CAN MOVE THIS CASKET!

DON

DON

DON

IS THERE ANY DUCT TAPE DOWN HERE?

AND ANYTHING TO BAR THE DOOR WITH?

SHOOTING THEM DOESN'T DO A THING— WE ALREADY LEARNED THAT THE HARD WAY!

DO (BAM)

DON

KUH ...!

CHA (CHAK)

MISS KATOU!?

♪

JARARARARA

♪ —

JARARARARA (JANGLE)

KEE HEE! ♡

GACHI (CLACK)

JARA

♫

THERE. PERFECT!

JARA

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT SOUND?

KIRI (CLANK)

KIRI

KIRI

THE CLANKING?

KIRI

KIRI

KH...

SLOW-LY...

...IT'LL TAKE ITS SWEET TIME...

...AND PULL THE CHAINS WRAPPED AROUND YOU TIGHTER AND TIGHTER.

KIRI

KIRI

KIRI

...REELING THOSE CHAINS IN BIT...BY... BIT.

THAT'S THE SOUND OF THE CRANE HOLDING YOU UP BY BOTH WRISTS...

KIRI キリ

KIRI キリ

MICHI ミチ

LOOK AT THEM, DIGGING INTO THAT MEATY FLESH!

AHA-HA-HA-HA!

OH! HERE WE GO!

MICHI ミチ

MICHI CCREAK ミチ

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW IT CUTS YOU UP!

KIRI キリ

KIRI キリ

KIRI キリ

I BET YOU'LL BE EVEN MORE SHREDDED THAN MY ARM...

SHREDDED INTO TINY LITTLE PIECES!

AHA-HA-HA-HA!

...PULLING ME INTO PIECES WOULDN'T KILL ME.

I AM A ROBOT.

EVEN IF THIS WERE REALITY ...

..... BUT...

IT'S NOT REAL.

IT'S ONE PIECE OF THE PROGRAM... THE LOGIC... THAT RULES THIS WORLD.

THE PAIN I FEEL RIGHT NOW, THIS AGONY, IT'S ALL DATA. NOTHING MORE.

EVEN IF THAT DID HAPPEN, ONCE MY SYSTEM IS RESTARTED, A "ME" NO DIFFERENT THAN THE PAST "ME" WOULD COME BACK TO LIFE.....

...I AM A ROBOT.

EVEN IF I DIDN'T DIE, WHAT IF I COULD NEVER RETURN TO MY BODY IN REALITY?

WHAT IF I DID DIE HERE?

...AND HELP COLLECT COILS, AS FATHER INSTRUCTED ME TO.

...GET SCOLDED BY MR. KYOUMA WHO HATES COILS...

...DO LAUN-DRY...

I'D CLEAN...

BUT WOULD THAT HONESTLY BE "ME"?

OR WOULD IT BE A DIFFERENT "ME" THAN THE "ME" I AM NOW?

AHA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

BREAK!

.....
THAT WOULD BE AWFUL.

GICHI (CREAK)
I WANT ...
...THERE TO BE ONLY ONE "ME"!

BAK!! (SNAP)

NNN... AH!

NO WAY ...

SUTA (THUD)

NO!!

JARARARA (CLATTER)

WH...

WHAT ARE YOU...?

IT'S NOT ...!

NO, THAT'S NOT POSSI-BLE...

AH!

...OVER-RODE THIS WORLD'S LOGIC?

MY LOGIC ...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!? AFTER ALL THIS TIME!?

WH...

GASHAAN CRASH

YOU'RE GONNA IGNORE ALL THE OBSTA-CLES I THROW AT YA TOO?

SURURU

SURU (SLIP)

GO (CLONK)

SOME-THING HIT IT!?

...!?

WHAT DID THE TRICK ...!?

Dimension
W

FILE.27
SIMILAR YET WORLDS APART

...WITH HIS ANDROID, MIRA.

THE ROOM MABUCHI CHECKED INTO...

GACHA (RATTLE)

ガチャ

ガチャ

THE FOG'S GETTING REALLY THICK! LET'S HURRY, ELLIE!

301

THIS IS IT.

PI PI (BEEP)

ピ ピ

...IN TWO SECONDS FLAT.

I CAN HACK A SIMPLE ELECTRONIC LOCK LIKE THIS...

PI PI

ピ ピ

BITA (CLICK)

ビタ

NATURALLY.

CAN YOU OPEN IT?

IT'S ELEMENTARY!

SEE?

OPEN

GACHA (CLICK)

ガチャ

BITAAN (SLAM)

ELLIE!

WHY, YOU...

KID!

IT'S A KID!

LU KA KA KA!

KID SO TINY...

KA KA KA!

KH...

BUT MIGHT DIE TOO EASY!

I WANT TO ENJOY ...

BOTA (DROOL)

BOTA

SNAP LIKE TWIG!

MGRF!

ZUBO (SHOVE)

...A KID!!

SU (SWISH)

MOKO (RUFFLE)

MOKO

I AM NOT...

BOTA (SPLICK)

BOTA

...DIS... GUSTING ...!

(SCREECH)

BAAN (SPLATTER)

YOU'RE SO DEAD.

...EVEN IF WE WANTED TOOO!

CAN'T DIE...

...!

WEE DON'T DIIIE!

LU KA KA KA!

SHOW UUUS...

...WHAT "DEATH" IS!

TEACH UUUS...

...THE "END," IF YOU DAAARE!

THAT VOICE... MABUCHI!?

I'll show you...

...the "end."

IF YOU WANNA SEE IT SO BAD...

AND I'M WILLING TO BET THIS IS EXACTLY...

THEIR WEAKNESS.

SHUU (PSSH)

CASSETTE GAS POWER

I FIGURED IT OUT.

...WHAT SHIJUUROU SAKAKI WAS COUNTIN' ON USIN' TO FEND OFF THE FOG.

KI (GLARE)

KIN (KREEN)

!!?

HYU (WHIRL)

SHUPIN (SWING)

JIRIRIRIRI
ANY WATER THAT AIN'T PART OF YOUR "FOG."
...IS PLAIN OLD WATER.
SHAAAA (PSSH)
UO (SHOOM)
OOA
YOUR WEAKNESS...
BON (BOOM)
NOPE. NOT FOR ONE SECOND.
SHURURURU (SWIRL)
... WOULD GET RID OF US?
...DIDJA THINK YOUR PUNY EXPLOSION ...
JIRIRIRI (BRIIING)
PUSHA (PSSH)

SRIRIRIRIRI

AAAA (FSSH)

PLSHA

HYJJJJ (HWOO)

THE FOG...

IT'S PULLING BACK ...!?

...!?

SHUPAAAAA (SHAA)

I'M MELT-IIING ...!

I'M...

RIRIRIRIRI

...UNBE-LIEVABLE. WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT WATER...

...BEATS WATER?

These guys phased everything I threw at them... until some bottled water bounced right off of 'em.

Gave me one'a them "Eureka!" moments.

Bet you'll find a lighter or some such in that study. Someplace within his reach.

That's what I'm thinking.

SHUPAPAPA (SHWUP)

EUREKA, INDEED.

MR. SAKAKI WAS AWARE OF THIS WEAKNESS...SO HE ARRANGED FOR THE PLUMBING TO DRAW WATER FROM ANOTHER SOURCE, AND SET THE ENTIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM TO BE SET OFF ALL AT ONCE FROM ANY SMOKE DETECTOR, I TAKE IT?

What doesn't make sense?

IF THIS IS THE CASE, IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, DOES IT?

...MABU-CHI.

GARA (CLACK)

LO AND BEHOLD.

KATA (CLUNK)

...BUT I THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HER...

YEAH...

.....IN THE BATHROOM?

I FOUND MIRA!

ELLIE! OVER HERE!

SEE?

!?

SHE'S NOT RESPONDING TO POKING OR TALKING.

PATA (FLUTTER)

PATA

SHE'S FROZEN?

OH MY GOD, DID SHE SHORT CIRCUIT?

DIAG-NOSTICS PROGRAM ISN'T FIND-ING ANY PROBLEMS EITHER...

PIPIPI (BEEP)

...BUT THE A.I. IS BLOCKED. I CAN'T ACCESS IT...

PIPI

...HER COIL LOOKS ALIVE TO ME.

A RESTART?

...A RESTART MIGHT BE THE ONLY WAY...

BIBI (BZZ)

...IT LOCKED ME OUT.

!

...BUT AT THIS POINT, WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

A FORCED SHUT DOWN RUNS THE RISK OF CORRUPTING MEMORY, SO IT'S NOT IDEAL...

IF WE FORCIBLY STOP THE COIL, SHE'LL SHUT DOWN.

HERE GOES!

FORTU-NATELY, HER COIL IS ALREADY EXPOSED FOR US...

FIVE.

FOUR.

KACHI (CLICK)

HOLDING IN THE CENTER OF A COIL FOR LONGER THAN FIVE SECONDS, OR DESTROYING IT OUTRIGHT, CAN TURN A COIL OFF.

ON A SIDE NOTE, THEY SAY THAT THE RING ITSELF IS INDESTRUCTIBLE WHILE IN OPERATION.

AS LONG AS IT HASN'T GONE OUT OF CONTROL, ANYWAY.

GOKU (GULP)
ゴクッ

...ONE.

TWO.

THREE.

KYUUN (WEEEND)
キューン

...

BIKUU (JOLT)
ビクッ!!!

GA (SNATCH)
ガ!!!

WAAAH!

...EH?

WAIT, WHY ARE YOU NAKED ANYWAY?

YOU WERE M.I.A., SO WE CAME TO FIND YOU!

MISS ELLIE? MISS MISUZU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

C...

COULD YOU PLEASE NOT STARTLE ME LIKE THAT!?

WHEW...I WAS MILLISECONDS AWAY FROM BEING SHUT DOWN BEFORE MAKING IT BACK...

AN AN-DROID... FEELING SICK?

SICK?

OH! THIS BOOK MADE ME FEEL SICK, SO I THOUGHT I'D...

THE DYE'S ALREADY COMING OUT?

NO WAY...

.....

AHEM.

MISS ELLIE? YOUR HAIR'S TURNING BLACK...

YOU KNOW, I REALLY DO FEEL LIKE WE'VE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

.....

Y-YOU CAUGHT ME...

YOU DYE YOUR HAIR, ELLIE?

KYULIN (VREEN)

キュリーン

FIRST, I NEED TO LOCATE MR. KYOUMA ...

OH! RIGHT!

WE NEED TO FIND AND RETRIEVE THE NUMBERS, STAT!

FORGET ABOUT THAT!

HEY!

WAIT!

I HAVE TO TELL HIM ***EVERY-THING***, AND THEN HEAD ***THERE***!

PIPI (BEEP)

HOLO

THERE HE IS!

...OR THE YASOGAMIS IN BOTH WORLDS WILL BE IN JEOPARDY!

WE HAVE TO PUT A STOP TO THIS FAST...

TELL HIM WHAT!? HEAD WHERE!?

AND UNDIES TOO, IF YOU COULD!

MIRA! AT LEAST PUT ON A COAT FIRST!

PASHAAA (PSSH)

SHAAA

...WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, AL?

He also knew that the phantoms that came about because of it are weak to "ordinary water."

Shijuurou Sakaki was most likely present for the accident twenty-one years ago.

FOR YEARS, THE "FOG" AND ITS "GHOSTS" HAD MADE BARELY A PEEP— UNTIL HIS DEATH.

...THERE'S ONE MORE FACT THAT REQUIRES EXPLANATION.

BUT IF HE FEARED AN ATTACK, WHY TAKE UP RESIDENCE ON YASOGAMI LAKE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

AAAA (FSSH)

IF HE PREPARED THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM IN THIS WAY, SURELY THAT MEANS HE EXPECTED TO BE ATTACKED.

I don't believe that he thought he would actually be killed.

.....

The sprinkler system was but insurance for a nightmare-case scenario.

From this, we can deduce that Shijuurou Sakaki, while alive, might have been able to control the appearance of the fog and its malevolent spirits.

Most certain ly.

...HE WAS CAUGHT BY SURPRISE, THEN?

SHIJUUROU SAKAKI DIDN'T LOOK CONCERNED IN THE ROBOT'S VIDEO LOG EITHER.

...OKAY, YOU GOT A POINT. THAT MAID SAID SHE'D NEVER SEEN ANY GHOSTS HERE.

THERE WAS NO OUTSIDE OPENING FROM WHICH THE FOG COULD ENTER, AND EVEN IF IT HAD, MR. SAKAKI WAS A CAUTIOUS MAN— SURELY HE WOULD HAVE SEEN ITS APPROACH BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE.

THE DOOR WAS CRACKED OPEN, BUT THERE WAS NOT A THING TO BE SEEN ON THE CAMERA FACING THE HALLWAY BEFORE IT.

AS I TOLD YOU IN YOUR INITIAL BRIEFING, THIS STUDY WAS ESSENTIALLY A LOCKED ROOM, SECURITY-WISE.

THE NEXT QUESTION IS, "BY WHOM?"

WHERE DID THE "WATER" COME FROM?

NOW, HOW DID HE DROWN?

SHIJUUROU WAS SURROUNDED... BUT MAYBE HE NEVER EVEN SAW BY *WHAT.*

...KOOROGI SAID THAT THE "GHOSTS" IN THE DATA DIDN'T HAVE ANY MASS TO THEM...

THE "GHOSTS OF THE FOG" SHOULD AVOID "ORDINARY WATER"...

PRECISELY.

.....ONLY THAT DON'T EXPLAIN THE GHOSTS.

I THINK IT'S A SOUND CONCLUSION.

BASED ON THE CRIME SCENE, THE POLICE CONCLUDED THAT THE WATER THAT KILLED HIM CAME FROM THE WATER DISPENSER IN HIS STUDY.

...WITH THE FOG-CREATIN' "WATER" FROM LAKE YASOGAMI.

...THE ORDINARY "WATER" IN THE WATER DISPENSER...

OUR ***SOMEBODY*** SWITCHED OUT...

...MEANIN' ***SOMEBODY*** HAD TO BE THERE TO FORCE THE WATER INTO HIM.

...NO, WAIT.

ODDS ARE THERE WAS ENOUGH TO FORM ONE PARTIAL BODY, WHICH LIFTED SHIJUUROU SAKAKI BY THE NECK...

GWAH!

...AND THEN DROWNED HIM.

PUSHA (SPRAY)

WHEN THE HOUSEKEEPING ROBOT WENT TO GET HIM A CUP OF WATER, IT ESCAPED.

Your water ...

Who re-placed the water, then?

NOW THAT'S STILL A MYSTERY TO ME.

...or was inside of Mr. Sakaki.

Yes. Not to mention most of it had either evaporated ...

IF THE FOG WATER DOESN'T CONTAIN ANY DETECTABLE DIFFERENCES, THE POLICE WOULD NEVER KNOW THERE WAS ANYTHING OFF ABOUT IT.

GON (CLONK)

ゴン

OWW!

YER LATE!

YA DAMN BUCKET OF BOLTS!

BA (PWIP)

MR. KYOUMA!

!

I KNOW WHERE IT IS!

THE COIL THAT CAUSED ALL OF THIS... THE NUM-BERS...

WHAT YOU FOUND?

I-I'M SORRY ...

...BUT I'M LATE BECAUSE OF WHAT I FOUND.

...YEAH, UH...YOU SURE ABOUT THAT, BLUE?

TRUST ME, RED.

IT'S HERE.

...THIS IS THE PLACE.

DO (RUMBLE) DO DO DO

...IN OTHER WORDS, AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS HOLE.

"*THE OBJECT* LIES AT THE BOTTOM."

KURODA WROTE ABOUT THIS IN HIS NOTES.

"AT THAT PLACE, WHEN THE FOG IS PRESENT, ONE CAN OBSERVE LARGE DROPLETS OF WATER IN THE AIR BECAUSE OF CONDENSATION.

DO (RUMBLE)

DO ドドド

DO ドドド

DO ドドド

THE NUMBERS IS INSIDE THE DAM DRAIN HOLE.

FILE.28
DOWN THE HOLE

(RUMBLE)

DO

DO

DO

DO

A HOLE IN A LAKE...

.....

CREEPY.....

.....

IT'S A BELL-MOUTH SPILLWAY, FOR NATURALLY DRAINING WATER OVER-FLOW.

THEY'RE COLLO-QUIALLY CALLED "DAM DRAIN HOLES"

...

...OR "GLORY HOLES."

DO
DO
DO
DO

UH, GUYS? IT'S GETTING THINNER.

YOU SURE WE CAN GO ALL THE WAY DOWN THIS THING?

THIS ONE IS AN EIGHTY-METER VERTICAL DROP, WHICH THEN CONNECTS TO A TUNNEL...

...THAT DRAINS THE WATER DOWNSTREAM, OUT FROM UNDERNEATH THE DAM.

BLUE.

LOOK ABOVE US.

ゴゥ
YURAA (SWAY)

DO
DO
DO

THE INHABITANTS OF THE FOG ARE RALLYING, ARE THEY...?

MM. DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'RE COMING DOWN AFTER US JUST YET, AT LEAST...

LET'S HURRY IT UP.

CAN THIS CEILING GET ANY LOWER?

ZAAAA

DO DO DO DO

.....IT SHOULD BE...

YOU SURE IT'S UP AHEAD?

WE CAN ENTER THE TUNNEL FROM HERE.

ZAAA (RUSH)

.....GOOD. LET'S TAKE A LOOK INSIDE.

THERE'S A WEIRD OPENING IN THE TUNNEL CEILING!

FLOO FLOO FLOO

!

LOOK! THERE!

LOCATION-WISE... WE MUST BE INSIDE THE DAM PROPER.

A LOT OF OPEN SPACE...

DO DO DO

KA KA KA (TAK)

BJON (VMM)

FURU (SHIVER)

FURU

IF I'D KNOW IT'D BE THIS COLD, I WOULDA LEFT THAT STUPID MAID UNIFORM ON...

!

...IT'S FUCKIN' FREEZING IN HERE...

NOT EVEN ANY DOORS. JUST THE HOLE IN THE FLOOR.

...THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY-THING HERE.

UNDER OUR NOSES?

KIRA (GLINT)

KIRA

FOUND SOMETHING, WHITE?

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK. IT'S RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES.

WAIT, BLUE. THERE'S SOMETHING HERE.

HYU (SWOOP)

WE'VE FOUND IT...!!!

HOW DOES IT LOOK OUTSIDE?

IT SEEMS THE FOG NOT ONLY LEFT THE BUILDING, IT'S DRAWN AWAY FROM THE ISLAND ITSELF TOO...

PI (BEEP)

PI

AND SO HAVE WE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

HEE HEE!

PATA (FLUTTER)

PATA

10

GACK!

KOFF!

UGH...

UNGH...

OH MY! YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT!

COME LOOK.

ZAPA (SPLOOSH)

THEY PROBABLY WEREN'T UNDER-WATER FOR LONG.

LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE OKAY.

BORURUN (VROO)

WHERE ARE THOSE TWO?

GORON (FLOP)

ZEE (WHEEZE)

ZEE

DAMN... IT...!

ZABA (SPLASH)

JARI (CRUNCH)

KH...!

WAH!

GYAKYA (SCREECH)

GOO (VROOM)

GOON (WHOOM)

DA (ZIP)

WHO D'YA THINK YER TALKIN' TO, ROOKIE?

CAN YOU KEEP UP, MR. KYOUMA?

KIII (SKREEE)

TATA (TAMP)

O-OKAY!

I'M NOT OUT OF THE GAME YET!

MISUZU! YOU WAIT HERE!

TH... THANK YOU, SIR...

.....

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE, ALL OF YOU...

!

BU

BU

BU

BU

THEY WERE HI-JACKED!

THE BARRIER BALLOON'S SATELLITE DRONES.

KASHA (CLANK)

AREN'T THOSE ...

GASHA (CLANK)

POLICE

!!

BUT...

WHAT!?

IGNORE 'EM.

GO STRAIGHT ON PAST!

SHUN
シュン
JU (VWEEN)
ジュ
SHU
シュ
DOGA
(KERBLAM)
GAAN
ガーン
SO MUCH FOR BEIN' ON VACATION, AL.
I KNEW HE HAD IT ON HIM.
IT'S A HIGH-ENERGY RIFLE USIN' A COIL AS A WAR-HEAD.
IT'S HIS GO-TO WEAPON.
A PLAS-MA RIFLE !?

IT'S BEEN SOME YEARS SINCE I'VE PROTECTED YOUR BACK, MABUCHI!

HMM, HMM, HMM.

HRUMPH.

DON'T LET MY EFFORTS GO TO WASTE!

BATAN (SLAM)

TA (PATTER) TA TA TA

BOOOOO (VROOM)

MESSAGE

Abort plan
Withdraw now

BUPORUN VAVROOM

I'LL CATCH UP, JUST YOU WATCH ...!

!?

PIRON GOING

We are second
Grendel's target

WH-WHAT!?
...
BUT WHY?

GASP!

HMPH.

JUST WHEN I WAS GETTING TO THE GOOD PART.

OH DEAR. DID I LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG?

I SUSPECTED THAT GIRL MAY BE CONNECTED TO LOSER .....

<BLRORORORO (VROOM)

.....

(WHEEZE)

HAH! (SPUTTER)

I'LL SLIP AWAY INTO THE NIGHT...

IT SEEMS MY MISSION ENDS HERE.

TO (CLACK)

TO

AH WELL. I DOUBT THERE'D BE ANY EVIDENCE TO BE HAD WERE I TO APPREHEND HER NOW.

BEST WE GETCHA WARMED UP.

STAND UP, NOW.

YES, SIR...

DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, SIR?

HAA HAA

NOTHIN'. NAW.

GRA

HANDLING TWO LEGENDARY BEASTS AT ONCE WOULD LEAVE US AT A DISADVANTAGE INDEED.....

THIS IS IT.

YES, RED.

KIRA (GLINT)

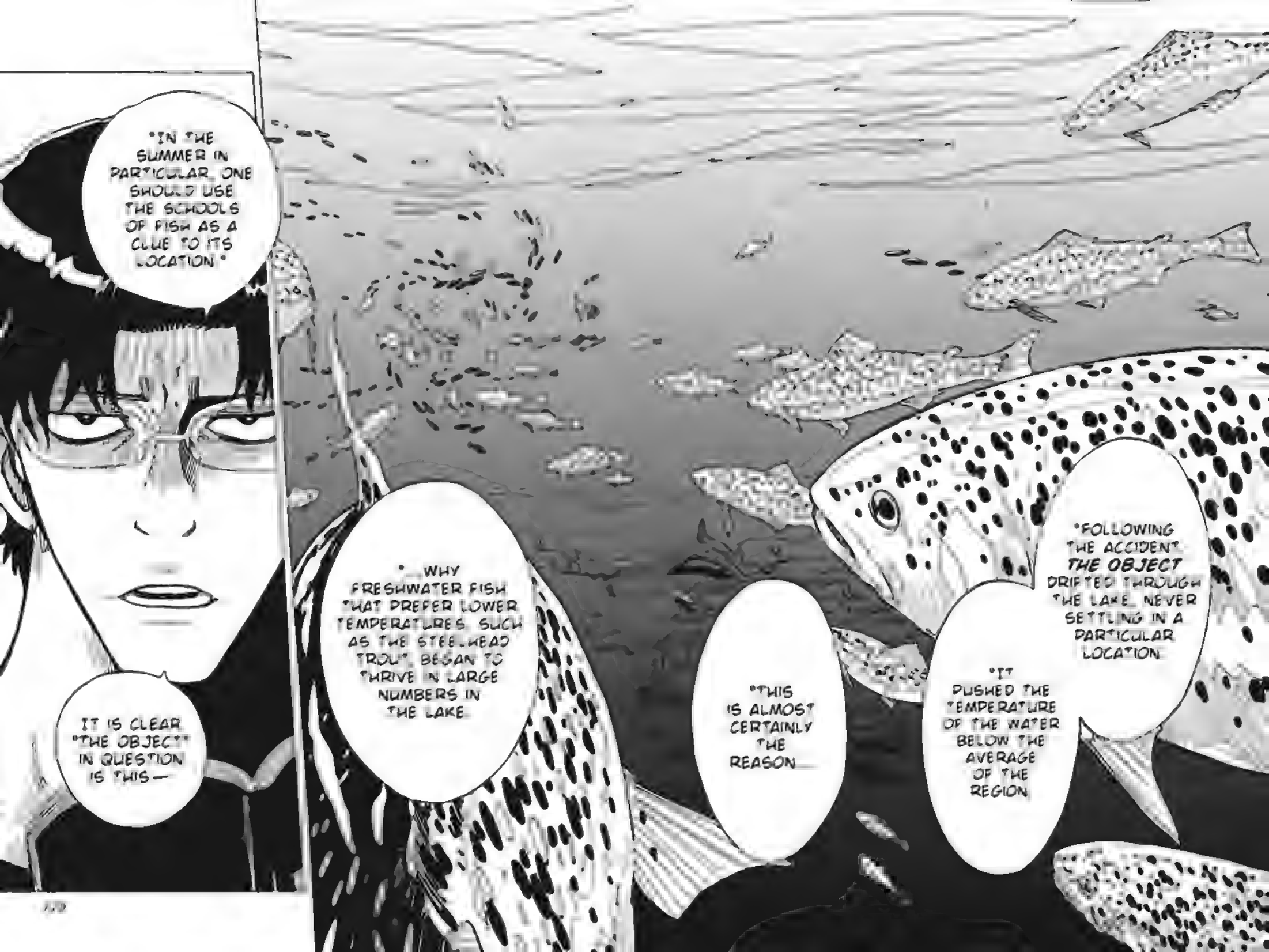
...*THIS THING* IS OUR ***BURIED TREASURE***, BLUE? YOU'RE SURE?

"I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO DETECT WHEN SUBMERGED UNDERWATER."

"***THE OBJECT*** IS TRANSPARENT TO AN INCREDIBLE DEGREE.

ACCORDING TO KURODA'S NOTES...

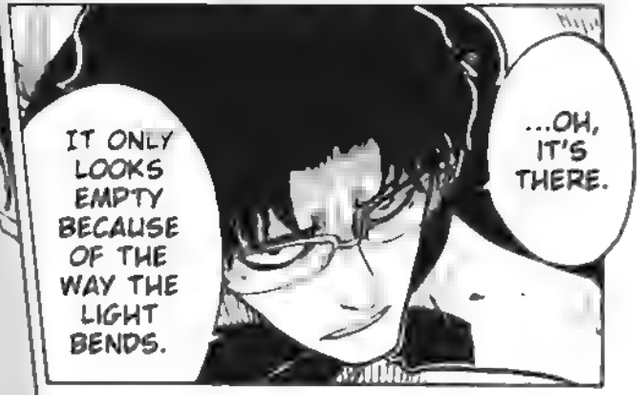
K.K.


"IN THE SUMMER IN PARTICULAR, ONE SHOULD USE THE SCHOOLS OF FISH AS A CLUE TO ITS LOCATION."
IT IS CLEAR "THE OBJECT" IN QUESTION IS THIS—
"...WHY FRESHWATER FISH THAT PREFER LOWER TEMPERATURES, SUCH AS THE STEELHEAD TROUT, BEGAN TO THRIVE IN LARGE NUMBERS IN THE LAKE.
"THIS IS ALMOST CERTAINLY THE REASON...
"IT PUSHED THE TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER BELOW THE AVERAGE OF THE REGION.
"FOLLOWING THE ACCIDENT, *THE OBJECT* DRIFTED THROUGH THE LAKE, NEVER SETTLING IN A PARTICULAR LOCATION.

A CUBE OF ICE...
...STANDING IMPOSSIBLY ON ONE CORNER.

THERE'S SOME-BODY INSIDE IT...!!!?

THAT EXPLAINS THIS DAMN COLD.
BLUE, IT LOOKS LIKE JUST A HUNK OF ICE TO ME. I DON'T SEE ANYTHING INSIDE.


...OH, IT'S THERE.
IT ONLY LOOKS EMPTY BECAUSE OF THE WAY THE LIGHT BENDS.

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK FROM BELOW.
?

IS THAT PROFESSOR KURODA'S MISSING STUDENT ...

... HARUKA ENAMORI, THE STUDENT TEACHER?

YES...

AND THERE IT IS, IN THE CENTER OF THE DEVICE SHE'S CRADLING ...

KRA (GLINT)

189

OUR TARGET...

...A NUMBERS.

...ENAMORI WANTED TO POWER ALL OF YASOGAMI VILLAGE WITH THIS COIL.

HAD EVERY-THING GONE AS PLANNED, SHE WOULD HAVE SUC-CEEDED.

WE KNOW FOR A FACT THAT THIS COIL IS CAPABLE OF MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

A NUM-BERS ...!!

UP CLOSE AND PER-SONAL .....!

DON'T TOUCH IT!

RED! NO!

THIS IS WHAT A BILLION YEN LOOKS LIKE...

HA-HA-HA...! THIS IS IT...

.....

HA.....

PITO (PRESS)

GON (CLONK)

RED!

YURA (WOBBLE)

RED!

YURA (WHOOSH)

RED, ARE YOU STILL WITH US!?

THAT HAPPENS TO ANYONE WITH NO MEMORIES OF THE ACCIDENT, WHEN THEY TOUCH THE ICE.

...NOW SHE'S FATED TO WANDER THROUGH THE ETERNITY THE COIL CREATED.

!!?

...HAS FROZEN TOO.

THAT WOMAN'S "TIME" ...

DAMN YOU...!

STAND BACK, BLUE!

IT'S A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH...

KUH ...!

I'LL TAKE HIM ON!

HYA!

BOGO (CLOBBER)

HERE I GO!

IT'S HERE, MR. KYOUMA!

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS WALL!

PARA (CRUMBLE)

PARA

GOT A REGULAR HERCULES HERE...

GARA (CLATTER)

INSIDE THAT CUBE OF ICE...!

.....

THERE IT IS, MR. KYOUMA!

FILE.29

THE TRUTH OF 21 YEARS AGO

SHUUUU

PAK!

CLINK

PAK!

PAK!

SHUUUU (PSHOO)

!

AN' THIS GUY HERE...

HERE LIE THE THREE STOOGES, HUH...?

HYUUUUUU (HWOO)

THEY'RE EMPTY HUSKS OF ICE.

PAKI

THEY'VE ALL GOT THE SAME FACE.

PARA (FLECK)

!

SU (SST)

THEY GOT IT INTO THEIR HEADS THAT FREEZING ME WOULD BE ENOUGH TO STOP ME, APPARENTLY...

SO YOU'RE THE SHIJUUROU SAKAKI OF TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO...

...OR I GUESS I SHOULD CALL YOU THE MEMORIES OF SHIROU KAMIKI.

PARA

BUT THEY COULD ONLY FREEZE MY SHADOWS.

GUESS THEY DIDN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ESSENCE OF MY BEING RESIDES IN ANOTHER DIMENSION.

YOU MUST BE QUITE SPECIAL YOURSELF, GIRL...

TO BE ABLE TO CROSS BETWEEN WORLDS AS IF IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.....

BARA (CRUMBLE)

PARA

...THE GIRL THERE TOLD YOU, HUH?

THIS PLACE WAS SUPPOSED TO HOUSE PART OF THE GENERATOR EQUIPMENT.

PART OF THE DAM STRUC-TURE.

THIS ROOM. WHAT IS IT?

IT WASN'T WITHOUT ITS DIFFI-CULTIES.

.....ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO, HE CAME WALTZING BACK TO YASOGAMI.

THIS COIL HAD BEEN DRIFTING THROUGH THE LAKE.

HE CAME TO US, PROPOSING TO HIDE IT IN HERE INSTEAD.

...OR RATHER, IT WAS YOUR "SHIJUUROU SAKAKI," THE ME FROM TWENTY-ONE YEARS AFTER THE ACCIDENT, WHO FOUND OUT ABOUT IT.

BUT THE PLANS WERE CHANGED MIDWAY. THEY SEALED OFF ALL ENTRANCES TO IT, LEAVING IT EMPTY.

I FOUND OUT ABOUT IT BECAUSE MY DAD WAS INVOLVED IN DESIGNING THE DAM.

WE HAD OUR MIS-GIVINGS, GIVEN HOW HE WAS THE ONLY ONE TO SURVIVE THE ACCI-DENT.

BUT OUTSIDERS HAD COME AFTER OUR COIL TIME AND TIME AGAIN.

SO WE TRUSTED HIS WORD, AND FOLLOWED HIS PLAN...

...UNAWARE THAT IT WAS ACTUALLY A TRAP.

AS YOU KNOW, OUTSIDE OF THE FOG, WE'RE PRACTICALLY POWERLESS.

.....IT'S NOT AS THOUGH WE CAN VISIT THIS SIDE WHEN-EVER WE PLEASE.

HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THAT FACT...

...TO RESEAL THE EN-TRANCE WITH CON-CRETE.

WE CARVED OUT THE CONCRETE LITTLE BY LITTLE OVER THE MONTHS AND YEARS, WITH ONLY THE SOUND OF THE WATER TO GUIDE US...

WE FINALLY OPENED THAT HOLE IN THE FLOOR TEN DAYS AGO.

I VOWED REVENGE...

...AGAINST THE BASTARD WHO BETRAYED US...

...AND ON HIS WORLD.

...! REAL-IZED ...

...THAT THIS ICE HAS THE POWER TO FREEZE THE "TIME" OF THOSE IT TOUCHES.

ON THE WHOLE WORLD?

THAT'S ESCALATING THINGS A BIT MUCH, DON'CHA THINK?

THE LARGER OUR WORLD BECOMES.

...THE MORE "MEMO-RIES" WE HAVE.

THE MORE "TIME" WE TAKE...

AND IT DOESN'T END THERE. THEIR "TIME" IS AB-SORBED INTO THE ICE.

IN OTHER WORDS, THEY THEN COME TO LIFE IN OUR WORLD.

...YOU'RE BEYOND CRAZY...

...THEN YOUR REAL PLAN IS TO RUIN THIS WORLD, AND MOVE IT TO YOURS?

AS OUR WORLD GROWS, WE'LL BE RELEASED FROM THE BOREDOM DRIVING US CRAZY.

WAIT, MR. KYOUMA!

ZA (ZWJF)

WHY I HATE ALL COILS.

NOW THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I HATE THE NUMBERS..... NO.

PLEASE JUST WATCH.

HYUUU (HWOO)

ヒュウ

BEFORE YOU CONFRONT HIM, THERE'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO.

OUTTA MY WAY, YOU BUCKET OF BOLTS!

SOMETHIN' WE HAVE TO DO?

?

YOSHI-KO?

SU (SST)

WHAT IS IT?

...AND THE REST OF YOU...?

THAT YOU DISCHARGED DAM #1, ON THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT...

...THAT YOU...

...SH...SH-SHE...TOLD ME.....

HRN?

THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO IS BELIEVED TO BE THE COMBINATION OF A FLASH FLOOD AND DAM #1 BEING DISCHARGED.

ANOTHER DAM, UPSTREAM FROM THIS ONE. IT'S NOT CURRENTLY IN USE.

"DAM #1"?

.....

YOU DIDN'T, RIGHT !?

YOU DIDN'T DO IT!

TELL ME IT'S NOT TRUE, SHIROU!

SIGN: DAM #1 CONTROL ROOM

第一ダム管制室

GORO GORO

GORO CRRMBLG

PISHAAA CRACKLE

ゴロゴロ

ゴロゴロ

ピシャア

PISHAA (CRASH)

SUURP

DOKA (YMAM)

HAT DAM #

FUU

FUU (HUFF)

GORO

GORO (RRMBL)

BISHA (SPLAT)

.....

SHIROU ...

SAY SOME-THING, SHIROU!

FUU

BUTTON: CONDUIT

KACH (CLICK)

Bill (BZZZ)

OTHERWISE, THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MOVE ON...

PLEASE TELL THEM, MR. SHIROU.

TELL THEM EVERY-THING.

...AND NEITHER WILL YOU.

FUU (SIGH)

FINE.

.....

SHIROU!

SHIROU!

DAMN IT, SHIROU!

I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH.

THIS IS WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ...

...ON THE DAY OF THE ACCIDENT...

DORU
KIII

WITH A COIL AROUND, WE WON'T NEED NO DAM..... HECK, WE WON'T NEED THE POWER COMPANY AT ALL.

.....

WE'RE GONNA USE THE MEDIA TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE.

LOOKS LIKE YOU MADE IT BY THE SKIN OF YOUR TEETH.

THE DAM FILLING IS SUPPOSED TO TAKE PLACE ON THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...

IT'S GONNA BE A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT.

THAT INCLUDES ALL OF THE STREET-LAMPS.

WE LET OURSELVES INTO ALL THE EMPTY HOUSES TO CONNECT THEM TOO. NOW WE CAN LIGHT UP EVERY BULB IN THE VILLAGE.

GOT IT. THANKS.

YOU MEAN HARU? SHE'S OUT BACK IN THE GYM, DOING SOME FINAL CHECKS ON THE COIL.

... WHERE'S *TEACH*?

I KNEW THAT THEIR PLAN DIDN'T HAVE A GHOST OF A CHANCE. OUTSIDE FORCES WOULD SABOTAGE IT.

JERK.

AT THE TIME, I WAS TORN.

I NEED YOU TO HELP ME FINISH THIS FIRST.

OH NO YOU DON'T!

AH!

WAIT, I'LL GO WITH YOU!

BUT SHOULD I COME OUT AND SAY IT? CONVINCE THEM TO GIVE UP?

YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID YOU WERE HERE!

OH, SHIROU!

I'M ONLY THREE YEARS OLDER THAN YOU!

I'M ONLY A STUDENT TEACHER, MISTER! I'M NOT A PROFES-SIONAL YET.

FROM WHERE I'M STANDING AS A STUDENT, YOU'RE A FULL-BLOWN TEACHER.

NADE (RUB) NADE ナデ ナデ

I DIDN'T WANT TO INTERRUPT YOU...

... TEACH.

JUST CALL ME HARUKA LIKE YOU HAVE SINCE WE WERE KIDS!

ARE YOU TRYING TO BE FUNNY?

IT'S NO BIG DEAL. I ONLY NEEDED A FEW STITCHES.

I CUT MYSELF WHILE I WAS WORKING ...

...OH, THIS?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM?

HMM ?

MR. MITANI!

AHA-HA-HA! YOU TWO SURE ARE A CLOSE PAIR.

YOU WERE A CRYBABY WHEN WE WERE LITTLE!

OH, PLEASE!

BE CAREFUL, HARUKA. ON TOP OF BEING A WEAKLING, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN CLUMSY TOO.

KAMIKI, RIGHT?

GOT IT.

PUT 'ER THERE.

*SOMETHING ABOUT HIM SMELLED EXCEEDINGLY **FISHY**.*

... GOOD TO MEET YOU.

SHIROU, THIS IS...

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU. MR. MITANI, THIS IS SHIROU KAMIKI. WE GREW UP TOGETHER.

I'M THE MAN LUCKY ENOUGH TO GET THE EXCLUSIVE SCOOP ON THIS REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT OF YOURS.

KATSUSHI MITANI, FROM CENTRAL TELEVISION.

BUT YOU KNOW, I CAN STILL HARDLY BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY MANAGED TO GET YOUR HANDS...

...ON THIS COIL.

THANK YOU!

YOUR CAUSE IS DEFINITELY GOING TO GAIN TRACTION!

I COULD TELL AT A GLANCE THAT HE WAS PART OF THE ADULTS' SABOTAGE SCHEMES.

JON

I BORROWED IT FROM MY MENTOR.

OH, BUT I PROMISED NOT TO MAKE THAT PUBLIC UNTIL WE ACTIVATE IT FOR THE PLAN...

AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE'S A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF COILS OUT THERE, AND THEY'RE ALL SPECIAL ONES ON LOAN TO RESEARCHERS.

JON CYLIMO

NO ONE ELSE WOULD EVEN DREAM OF USING AN HONEST-TO-GOD COIL TO ATTRACT ATTENTION TO THEIR CAUSE.

I'D BE A FOOL TO LET ANYONE IN ON THIS SCOOP EARLY.

THESE LIPS ARE ZIPPED!

YOU WON'T TELL ANYONE, RIGHT, MR. MITANI?

HUH?

SHIROU? YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?

...BUT IF I CONFRONTED HIM, THE SECRET COULD GET OUT BECAUSE OF ME.

I DIDN'T TRUST THE GUY ...

IT WAS TRUE THAT NO ONE ON THE OUTSIDE SEEMED TO KNOW ABOUT THE COIL.

RIGHT. OF COURSE...

OH...

...SORRY. GOTTA KEEP UP APPEARANCES, WHAT WITH MY DAD AND ALL.

ONCE COILS BECOME COMMONPLACE, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE TRADITIONAL POWER COMPANIES GO BUST ANYWAY.

YOU'RE THE ONE IN THE RIGHT, HARUKA.

IT'S FINE.

I KNOW WHAT I'VE STARTED PUTS YOUR FATHER'S JOB AT RISK...

SORRY FOR ALL THIS.

I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT THE WEATHER THOUGH...

YES. AT SEVEN.

YOU'RE GOING FORWARD WITH YOUR PLAN TOMORROW, THEN?

A STORM WAS ON ITS WAY.

THE TV SAYS IT MIGHT RAIN TODAY!

BIG BROTHER! BIG BROTHER!

TV: FLASH FLOOD WATCH

MM-HM?

BATA

BATA

BATA (RATTLE)

BATA

ZAZAAA (SWISSH)

P

P

BYUUUUU (CFWOO)

ピカッ

SHOYA

THE ADULTS ARE GOING TO MAKE THEIR MOVE.

IT'LL BE TODAY.

GACHA CKACHAK
ガチャ

ARE YOU GOING OUT?

TZA (PEERO)

BUT WHAT WILL THEY DO?

HOW DO THEY PLAN ON SABOTAGING HARUKA AND THE OTHERS' DEMONSTRATION?

VJRVRVRVJ (VRR)

WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

THE SIREN? THEY'LL RUN?

SHOYA

I'M TELLIN' YOU, WHEN THE SIREN GOES OFF, THEY'LL RUN WITH THEIR TAILS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS.

YUP. THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF KIDS.

I HAVE TO TELL HARUKA AND THE OTHERS ...!

THEY MUST MEAN DAM #1!

DRAIN WHAT? WATER !?

!

WHO HAS THE NIGHT SHIFT TODAY, AGAIN?

WELP, WE'RE ONLY GONNA DRAIN A LITTLE BIT OUT ANYWAY.

IT'LL BE FINE! THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE COIL ARE JUST DOWN THE HILL AND ACROSS THE RIVER.

THE AIR FEELS HEAVY... DO WE HAVE TIME BEFORE IT RAINS?

OKAY ... LET'S GET THE CAMERA ROLLING ...

IT'LL CAPTURE THE MOOD JUST BEFORE YOU FLIP THE SWITCH.

THAT WAY, I CAN FRAME THE SHOT WITH THE NEWLY-COMPLETED DAM IN THE BACK-GROUND.

DEFI-NITELY.

YOU WANT TO FILM IT FROM HERE?

GOROGORO (RRMBL)

ゴロゴロ

THAT WAS SOME CLOSE LIGHT-NING!

GOROGOROGORO

ゴロゴロゴロ

!?

PISHAA (CRASH)

ピシャ

YEEK!

ドドド

I HOPE EVERY-ONE'S OKAY...

BATA BATA ZAA (FSSH) BATA (RATTLE)

YOU SAID IT.

GAH!

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS!

DOZAAAA (BSSH)

!?

HAVE TO GET TO HARUKA ...

HIP

ZAAAA (FSSH)

HARU-KA!?

HARUKA! ARE YOU HURT!?

ZAAAA

HARU-KA!

SHI-ROU .....

SH .....

K... K.....

I-I .....

I...

GORO

GORO (RRMBL)

I K.....

...KILLED SOME-ONE!!!

...THUS BEGAN THE SLIPPERY SLOPE OF TRAGEDY.

FILE.30
TEARS OF BLOOD

AUNGH...

ST...
OP...!

LET ME TEACH YOU A LITTLE SOME-THING.

THIS "EXCLUSIVE SCOOP" IS MEANING-LESS.

BECAUSE THIS STORY WILL NEVER MAKE IT ON AIR.

IT WAS NEVER GOING TO BE IN THE FIRST PLACE!

DON'T YOU KNOW WHO THE MEDIA'S BIGGEST SPONSOR IS? IT'S THE POWER COMPANIES!

DID YOU RE-ALLY BELIEVE YOUR LITTLE "MOVEMENT" WOULD EVER MAKE IT ONTO THE AIRWAVES...

...WHILE THEY'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A DESPERATE ANTI-COIL SMEAR CAMPAIGN?

...!!!

AND BY THE WAY...WHATEVER HAPPENS HERE TONIGHT, IT'S ALL GONNA BE FRAMED AS YOUR MOVEMENT'S FAULT AND THE COIL'S FAULT.

NGH...

HAA!

KATA

N...

NOOO!

BATA

BATA (FLAIL)

GIVE UP IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

ONGH!

OG....

BIKU (SWITCHD)

GAKU (CLACK)

GAKU

AAAHH!

LET GO OF ME!

GYUU (WHOOSH)

GAKU (THNK)

DOSA (WHUMP)

AH!

PISHAA (CRASH)

HIC!

URGH ...

NGH...

ZAAAA (FSSH)

HE HAD IT COMING.

GORO

GORO

GORO (GRRMBL)

THEY'RE MOVING UP THE SCHEDULE FOR FILLING THE NEW DAM.

THE ADULTS WANT TO CHASE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS OUT BY DIS-CHARGING DAM #1.

SHH. LISTEN TO ME!

BUT... BUT...

..... HARUKA. YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

IT WAS SELF-DEFENSE.

WHAT ...?

WE HAVE TO ACT FAST.

YOU NEED TO GET THE MESSAGE TO ANY OF YOUR FRIENDS WHO ARE STILL IN THE VILLAGE AND MOVE EVERYONE TO THE HOTEL. IT'S ON HIGH GROUND.

OKAY?

BUT...BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BODY? ...WHAT ABOUT YOU?

BUT...

THERE'S NO TIME!

GO!

ZAAA (FSSH)

HARUKA, I WANT YOU TO FORGET THAT ANY-THING EVER HAPPENED HERE.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

ZAAA

AS FAR AS I KNEW, THE ADULTS NEVER INTENDED TO ACTUALLY FLOOD THE VILLAGE WITH ANYONE STILL IN IT. THEY ONLY PLANNED TO SCARE HARUKA'S GROUP OUT.

YEAH.

I WILL.

.....

KURU (SPIN)

PASHA (SPLASH)

PASHA

SHIROU, YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST TOO!

BECAUSE OF THAT CREEP, THERE WAS A NEED TO SPEED UP THEIR SCHEDULE.

D'SHAAAA (CRASH)

...BUT...

ZAAAA

ZAA (FSSH)

ZURU (DRAG)

ZURU

ZABON (SPLOOSH)

ZURU (PUSH)

(TOSS) POI

EVEN IF THE BODY IS FOUND YEARS FROM NOW...

...THE VIDEO OF THE ASSAULT RECORDED ON HIS CAMERA WILL PROVE HARUKA'S INNO-CENCE.

(BOCHA) (SPLASH)

ALL TRACES OF EVIDENCE WILL BE WASHED AWAY.

ONCE SUB-MERGED BY THE FLOOD-WATERS, THE WELL WILL BE FILLED WITH EARTH.

I'LL GET THE MOST USE I CAN OUT OF THE ADULTS' SABOTAGE PLANS.

(DORYUN) (ZAAAAA)

I HAVE TO PROTECT HARUKA.

(GYU) (GRIP)

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAP-PENS TO ME.

OO (VRRR)

...IS THE LOVE OF MY LIFE.

BECAUSE HARUKA...

HFF!

HFF!

HAA!

AA

HOPE THEY'RE BOTH OKAY OUT THERE...

YEAH...

HARUKA AND MR. MITANI WERE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE BY NOW.

ZAA (FSSH)

DODODODO (RUMBLE)

EEK!

GARA (CRUMBLE)

ガラガラ

HAA!

HFF!

GO (WHAM)

ゴゴゴ

GORO (ROLL)

GORO

DODODO

DODO

ゴロゴロゴロゴロ

...I WAS CONVINCED THAT HARUKA WOULD ALREADY BE EVACUATING THE OTHERS.

...AT THE TIME...

DODODO

ドドド

KACHI (CLICK)

ピー

Bii (BZZ)

NOW ALL OF THE WATER HELD BEHIND DAM #1 WILL FLOW DOWN-STREAM.

ウウウ (VRRR)

ドドドドドド (RUMBLE)

GOOD.

DORYURYURYU (DRRM)

DODODO

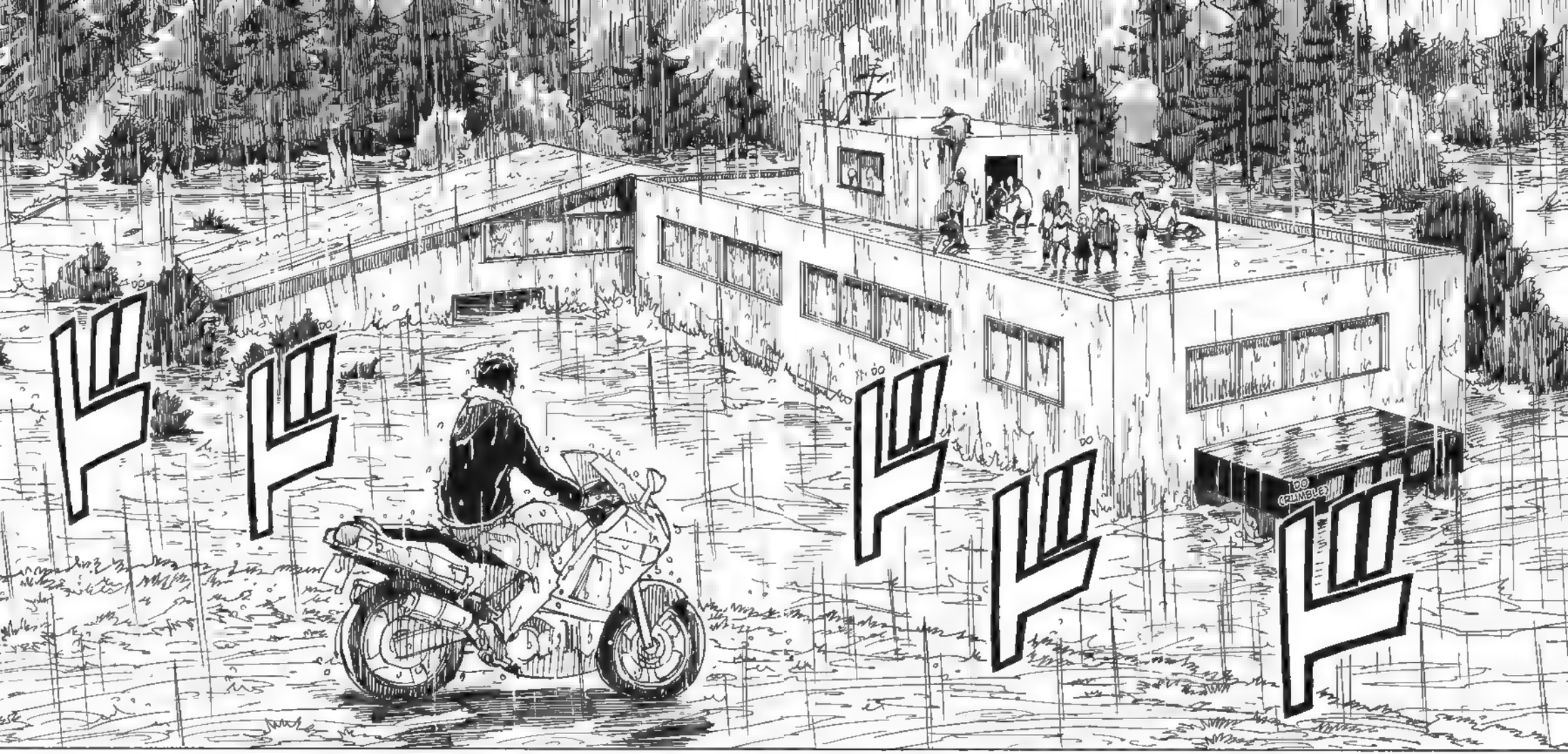
...THAT SHE MIGHT NOT HAVE EVER MADE IT THERE.

...NOT ONCE DID I IMAGINE...

!!!?

THE WATER'S RISING FASTER THAN I EXPECT-ED...

DOOOOO


ドド
ドド
ドド
(CRUMBLE)

...ARE THEY STILL HERE...?
WHY.....

GET HELP!! HURRY!!
SHIROU! HEEELP !!!
SHIROU! OVER HEEERE!

WHY AREN'T THEY THERE?

THE HOTEL WAS BUILT AFTER THE LAKE PLANS WERE DRAWN. IT WON'T BE SUBMERGED.

THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE UP AT THE HOTEL, WITH HARUKA.

.....

I WAS BEWILDERED.

AH...!

WHERE'S HARUKA?

HARUKA ...

...ENTANGLED WITH THE COIL'S CABLES... WAS HARUKA.

FLOATING THERE WITH THE DRIFTWOOD...

I SAW IT FOR AN INSTANT THROUGH A SECOND-STORY WINDOW IN THE GYM.

...HARU-KA...

...WAS DEAD.

WH...!!!

IT DOESN'T AFFORD YOU ANY MOMENTS TO GRIEVE, TO WALLOW IN YOUR REGRETS.

THE FLOW OF TIME IS CRUEL.

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, THE FLOOD-WATERS WILL RISE ABOVE THE BUILDING AND ENGULF YOSHIKO AND THE OTHERS.

I HAD TWO CHOICES.

FACE DOWN DEATH IN AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE THEM.

OR RUN IN SHAME TO SAVE MYSELF.

EVEN THE PAS-SAGE OF TIME WAS AMBIG-UOUS.

THERE WAS NO SOUND.

ONLY THAT MY WORLD WAS WRAPPED IN A WHITE LIGHT.

SPIRITUAL DEATH, OR PHYSICAL DEATH.

WHICH CHOICE DO I MAKE?

GOBO (RUSH)

GOBO

GOBO

WHICH PATH WOULD SHE CHOOSE ...?

...I CAN'T SAY WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT INSTANT.

189

KA! (FLASH)

...THE NEXT THING I KNEW...

...I WAS REACH-ING OUT...

...TO HELP EVERY-ONE.

...THIS...

...IS THE TRUTH.

IT'S TRUE. I DISCHARGED DAM #1. I KILLED YOU ALL. YOUR SELVES IN REALITY.

...YES.

THE REAL, UNFETTERED TRUTH.

...WHAT'S MORE, MY "HELP" SENTENCED YOU TO ETERNAL SUFFERING IN A WORLD FROZEN IN TIME.

BUT THAT, TOO, HAPPENED ONLY IN A FALSE WORLD.

I THOUGHT I'D GONE TO SAVE YOU.

...LIES SQUARELY ON MY SHOULDERS.

ALL OF THE BLAME...

WHY, YOU...!

SHIROU!

I'M TRULY SORRY.

HA! (SHIVER)

は,

SHIROU...

BUT I MADE THE WRONG CALL THAT DAY.

WE WOULD HAVE WARNED YOU. GOTTEN YOU TO SAFETY.

IF I'D MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE AND GONE WITH HARUKA, NONE OF YOU WOULD HAVE HAD TO DIE.

THAT'S WHY I CHOOSE...

SHURAA (SHRL)

BAKIKI (BRAK)

...TO PROTECT YOU!

I'LL PROTECT IT THIS TIME, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!

BA (LEAP)

I DON'T CARE IF THIS IS A FALSE WORLD — IT'S THE ONLY WORLD WE HAVE LEFT!

THERE'S IRON OXIDE MIXED IN WITH THE FOG, FROM DETERIORATED PARTS OF THE DAM.

NO. RUST.

THE HELL IS THAT? BLOOD?

RED TEARS AND A RED ARM...

GAKII (CLANG)

YOU TWO WILL DIE AND BECOME BUILDING BLOCKS OF THIS WORLD TOO!

PAKIIN (SNAP)

TCH!

STOP, SHIROU!

PLEASE!

GO (WHAM)

POI (TOSS)

GUESS POURIN' WATER OVER MY SKEWERS DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD.

LET'S TRY...

...SOME-THIN' WITH A LITTLE MORE KICK!

HAAAH!

TA (TMP)

HOW D'YOU LIKE A WET FOOT TO THE FACE?

GOAH!

I'M NOT DONE YET!

BAKIKI (BRAK)

...UNTIL YOUR WHOLE BODY DRIES OFF!

I'LL ATTACK YOU AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES...

BUO (FWOOSH)

BA (WHAP)

YOU CAN'T DAMAGE MY TRUE BEING.

THIS BODY IS BUT A SHADOW.

DON'T PILE UP MORE SINS ON YOUR SHOULDERS FOR OUR SAKE!

DOKA (WHACK)

GA (THACK)

STOP IT, SHIROU!

SHIROU!

...SOUNDS LIKE YOUR FRIENDS BACK THERE FOUND THEIR MARBLES. YOU GONNA LISTEN TO REASON FROM THEM?

SHI-ROU!

SHE'S RIGHT! STOP, SHIROU!

OUR WORLD IS THAT OF HARUKA'S MEMORIES.

GO GO GO GO (WHOOM)

WHEN I SAW THE ICE, I UNDER-STOOD.

...SHUT UP.

...ALLOWS US TO LIVE ON IN HER MEMORY!

HARU-KA'S WILL...

I WON'T LET THE WORLD BORN OUT OF HER LOVE...

...DROWN IN ETERNAL DESPAIR!

!!?

BARI (BRAK)

YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.

!?

KH!

ZIGAGA (TH=THACK)

YOUR WORLD ISN'T MISS HARUKA'S LOVE, OR HER MEMORIES.

.....!!?

...WAS PURE, UNDI-LUTED "*POSSI-BILITY.*"

WHAT CREATED YOUR WORLD...

PHEH. USIN' ME AS A DECOY...

!?

WHEN DID YOU...

SHE'S TOUCHING THE ICE, BUT HER TIME HASN'T FROZEN...?

"ANOTHER POSSIBILITY" OPENED UP FOR THE OTHER YOU THAT TURNED AND FLED IN REALITY.

ON THAT DAY...

AT THAT MOMENT ...

POSSIBI-LITY...? WHAT?

YES. POSSIBILITY.

.....AND THIS IS THE ANSWER!

GU (CLENCH)

...!!?

CWHOOM)

STOP!!

... WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?

DON GAMO
BISHISHISHI!!
(CRACK)
ZOOOOOO~.

FILE.31
FLOWER OF ASBESTOS

GUWASSHA (CRUMBLE)

DOSHAA (WHLID)

DODODODO (RUMBLE)

...!!!!

.....
WHAT'S GOING ON...?

ZUTA (STMP)

PASHI (SNATCH)

HARUKA..... WHERE'S HARUKA!?

PASHU

PASHU (PSSH)

WHY IS THE COIL THE ONLY THING REMAINING !?

BOTA (PLOP)

ホゲ"!!

AN EMPTY HUSK!?

.....WHAT YOU SAW WAS HER SHADOW.

AN EMPTY HUSK.

...THE REAL HARUKA...

...IS BEHIND YOU.

KURU (SPIN)

!!?

.....ON TOP OF THAT DUAL-MOTOR HOVERDISK.

...BEHIND ME?

WHERE!?

YOU SIMPLY CAN'T RECOGNIZE HER AS WHO SHE REALLY IS BECAUSE YOU EXIST IN A WORLD WHERE MISS HARUKA'S DEATH IS A PREREQUISITE.

NO. NO, IT'S NOT.

...WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL? THAT'S MY KID SISTER.

THEREFORE, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR YOUR SISTER TO BE HERE.

MR. SHIROU, YOUR REAL SISTER PASSED AWAY IN AN UNRELATED ACCIDENT FOURTEEN YEARS AGO.

!!?

...!

...WITH A YOUNGER SISTER WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE PASSED AWAY, NO ONE PURSUED THE MATTER.

SO, EVEN WHEN YOU RETURNED TO YASOGAMI UNDER THE NAME SHIJUUROU SAKAKI...

...AND YOUR OTHER SELF'S INVOLVEMENT AND SURVIVAL WASN'T REPORTED.

...AFTER THE ACCIDENT, YASOGAMI BECAME A TABOO SUBJECT FOR THE MEDIA, GIVEN THEIR CONNECTION TO IT. THE LOCALS AND THE OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED SCATTERED...

HARUKA WAS DEAD! I SAW IT WITH MY OWN TWO EYES!

...YOU'RE MAKING THIS UP!

Y'MEAN HAGE-YAMA?

...WITH ONE EXCEPTION.

...IT KEPT MOVING IN REALITY.

YOU SEE, EVEN THOUGH TIME HAD STOPPED IN YOUR WORLD...

.....

IF SHE WAS, SHE MUST HAVE REVIVED SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

SHE MIGHT REALLY HAVE BEEN DEAD, ***FOR THAT INSTANT.***

BUT SOON AFTER, YOU RAN INTO PROFESSOR KURODA, WHO HAPPENED TO BE ON HIS WAY TO CHECK ON HIS STUDENT...

...ON THAT DAY...

...YOUR OTHER SELF, THE ONE IN REALITY, TURNED AND FLED.

...AND YOU SAVED MISS HARUKA, WHO HAD MIRACULOUSLY DRIFTED TO SHORE, WITH YOUR OWN TWO HANDS.

...

WHAT!!?

I'LL TAKE ENAMORI.

AS THINGS STAND, THE MEDIA WILL CHEW HER UP AND SPIT HER BACK OUT!

...BOY!

HARUKA!

OPEN YOUR EYES, HARUKA!

DO AS I SAY! NOW GO!

BUT...

IF NO ONE SAW YOU HERE, THEN YOU WERE NEVER HERE AT ALL.

AND YOU...

BETTER TO LET THEM THINK SHE DIED IN THE FLOOD.

IN TRUTH, YOU ONLY ESCAPED THE AREA AFTER SAVING MISS HARUKA.

GO!

AFTER THIS DISASTER, NO ONE WILL STAND WITH YOU KIDS.

THE WORLD STILL FEARS COILS.

THEN, WHEN MR. SHIROU WENT TO REUNITE WITH HER...

YASOGAMI BECAME A LAKE, AND IT WAS ALL SHELVED AWAY AS A FREAK ACCIDENT.

...IT WAS MONTHS BEFORE THE SCANDAL DIED DOWN.

YOU'RE LYING!

IT'S ALL TRUE!

...MISS HARUKA...

...HAD LOST ALL OF HER MEMORIES FROM BEFORE THE ACCIDENT.

WHO ARE YOU?

YES. SHE HAS AMNESIA.

EVEN NOW, SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER HER LIFE FROM BEFORE THE ACCIDENT.

...AMNESIA!?

CAN YOU BACK THIS STORY UP?

WHO TOLD YOU THIS?

YES... THOSE AREN'T HER NATURAL HAIR OR EYE COLORS EITHER.

WHAT ABOUT THE MOLE ON HER NECK?

IS IT FAKE? TO THROW PEOPLE OFF?

...IS THE OTHER MISS HARUKA.

...MY WITNESS...

IF SHE HAS AMNESIA, THEN WHO THE HELL TOLD YOU ALL THIS?

...YEAH!

...A COPY OF MISS HARUKA'S MEMORIES WAS ALSO MADE AT THAT MOMENT.

JUST AS YOU WERE COPIED FROM THE MEMORIES OF THE MR. SHI-ROU WHO WOULD SAFELY ESCAPE THE FLOOD...

.....!!?

ANOTHER HARUKA!?

YES.

—CHIRA (GLANCE)

47

.....!!

AND SHE STILL IS, EVEN NOW...

FROM THERE, SHE'S BEEN WATCHING BOTH WORLDS. WATCHING EVERYTHING.

...ONLY SHE EXISTS OUTSIDE OF WHAT YOU CAN PERCEIVE— BECAUSE THE EXISTENCE OF YOUR WORLD HINGES UPON HER DEATH.

SHE LIVES IN THE SPACE BETWEEN REALITY AND YOUR WORLD...

SHE EXISTS AS THE "DREAMS" OF THE REAL-WORLD MISS HARUKA...

...AND PLAYED THE ROLE OF THE "BRIDGE" CONNECTING THE REAL WORLD AND YOURS.

THAT'S WHY SHE WAS ONLY SEEN IN THE MOMENTS BEFORE AN ATTACK, THEN?

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH, FROM REALITY, SHE COULD ONLY BE SEEN ON THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN WORLDS.

...YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE HER FOR YOURSELF NOW...

NOW THAT THE "TRUTH" OF HER DEATH HAS CRUMBLED AWAY FROM YOUR EYES...

.....

SHE SAYS SHE TRIED TO STOP YOU SO MANY TIMES.

SHE'S BEEN BY YOUR SIDE ALL ALONG.

...IT MEANS WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS, MR. SHIROU.

FINALLY...
WE'RE FINALLY TOGETHER AGAIN.....
SHIROU.

YOU REALLY SURVIVED ...!?

YOU REALLY ...

BA (WHAP)

!!!

... HARUKA!!!

I WAS WATCHING ALL OF YOU...

FOR SO, SO LONG...

I DID! I'M HERE!

HARUKA... OH, HARUKA...

THE PAIN I MUST HAVE CAUSED YOU...

HARU!

I'M SORRY... SO, SO SORRY...

HARU-KA!

I COULD ONLY WATCH AS ALL OF YOU SUFFERED.

I COULDN'T STOP YOU FROM KILLING YOUR OTHER SELF.

...WE PUT AN END TO THIS...

IT'S TIME...

GO

GO

GO

GO (RRM)
GO
GO
GO
GO (RUMBLE)
GO
WHEN THE NUMBERS GO OUT OF CONTROL, THEY CREATE CRACKS IN DIMENSION W— AN INTANGIBLE DIMENSION.
I BELIEVE THAT EACH CRACK HAS CREATED A CORRESPONDING COPY OF REALITY— THE CORPOREAL DIMENSION...
...AND EACH OF THOSE COPIES HELD A DIFFERENT POSSIBILITY.
.....USUALLY, THOSE COPIES DISAPPEAR IMMEDIATELY, ONCE THE CRACKS ARE CLOSED.
BUT IN THE CASE OF THE TRAGEDY OF YASOGAMI, THEIR WORLD CONTINUED TO EXIST FOR ALL THOSE YEARS BECAUSE THE NUMBERS INVOLVED WAS STILL ACTIVATED, UNTIL TODAY...

AAHH!

(ZUGOGO (SHOOM)

ズゴゴゴゴゴ

WHOA!

DO (CRUMBLE)

ドドド

...AND THE BOOK ENDS WITHOUT HIM MAKING THE FINAL CHOICE.

ASBEST

HE STARTS TO FEAR THAT ALL OF HIS CHOICES WERE MISTAKES ...

IN *FLOWER OF ASBESTOS*, HIS MOST WELL-KNOWN WORK, THE MAIN CHARACTER IS PRESENTED WITH TWO CHOICES IN HIS DREAMS, ONE FROM AN ANGEL AND ONE FROM A DEMON. HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE CHOOSES, AND MANY LIVES ARE LOST.

BOOK SAKAKI SHIJUURO FLOWER OF ASBESTOS

LOVED HIM...?

MAYBE. ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS HAND THE NUMBERS OVER TO NEW TESLA AND IT'D BE OVER AND DONE WITH...BUT INSTEAD HE WENT AS FAR AS HIDING IT... "PROTECTING" IT.

...I THINK THAT THE MR. SHIROU IN THE REAL WORLD DEEPLY REGRETTED THE CHOICE THAT HE MADE.

...FOR CHOOSING DEATH FOR HIS FRIENDS' SAKES.

EVEN IF IT HAPPENED IN A VIRTUAL COPY OF THE WORLD, I THINK THAT HE MUST HAVE LOVED HIS OTHER SELF...

AH!

THIS IS BECAUSE, UM...

104

PACHICHI (CRACKLE)

WHY'D YOU CONNECT IT TO THE NUMBERS?

...WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOIN' WITH YER TAIL?

GO

...WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT ...

GO

WAIT, SO YOU'RE SAYIN'...

...YOU'RE THE ONE MAKIN' IT CONVERGE WITH THIS WORLD!?

OHH, PLEASE DON'T STARE! IT'S SO EMBAR-RASSING!

I'M CON-TROLLING IT TO BE SAFE...

...IF THE NUMBERS IS POWERED OFF BEFORE THE CONVERGENCE FINISHES, IT COULD CAUSE SERIOUS DIMENSIONAL DAMAGE.

104

PACH

PAA (SHINE)

A ROBOT GETTIN' EM-BARRASSED? YOU STUPID BUCKET OF BOLTS...

PAN' (FWAP)

EEP!

PAAAAA (SHIMMER)

YEAH...

I'M GOING TOO... BACK TO THE ME IN REALITY...

THIS IS GOOD-BYE, HARUKA...

...LOOKS LIKE OUR TIME'S UP.

...HEY. SKEWER MAN.

YEAH?

PRETTY SURE PEOPLE WHO KILL THEMSELVES ARE BOUND FOR HELL.

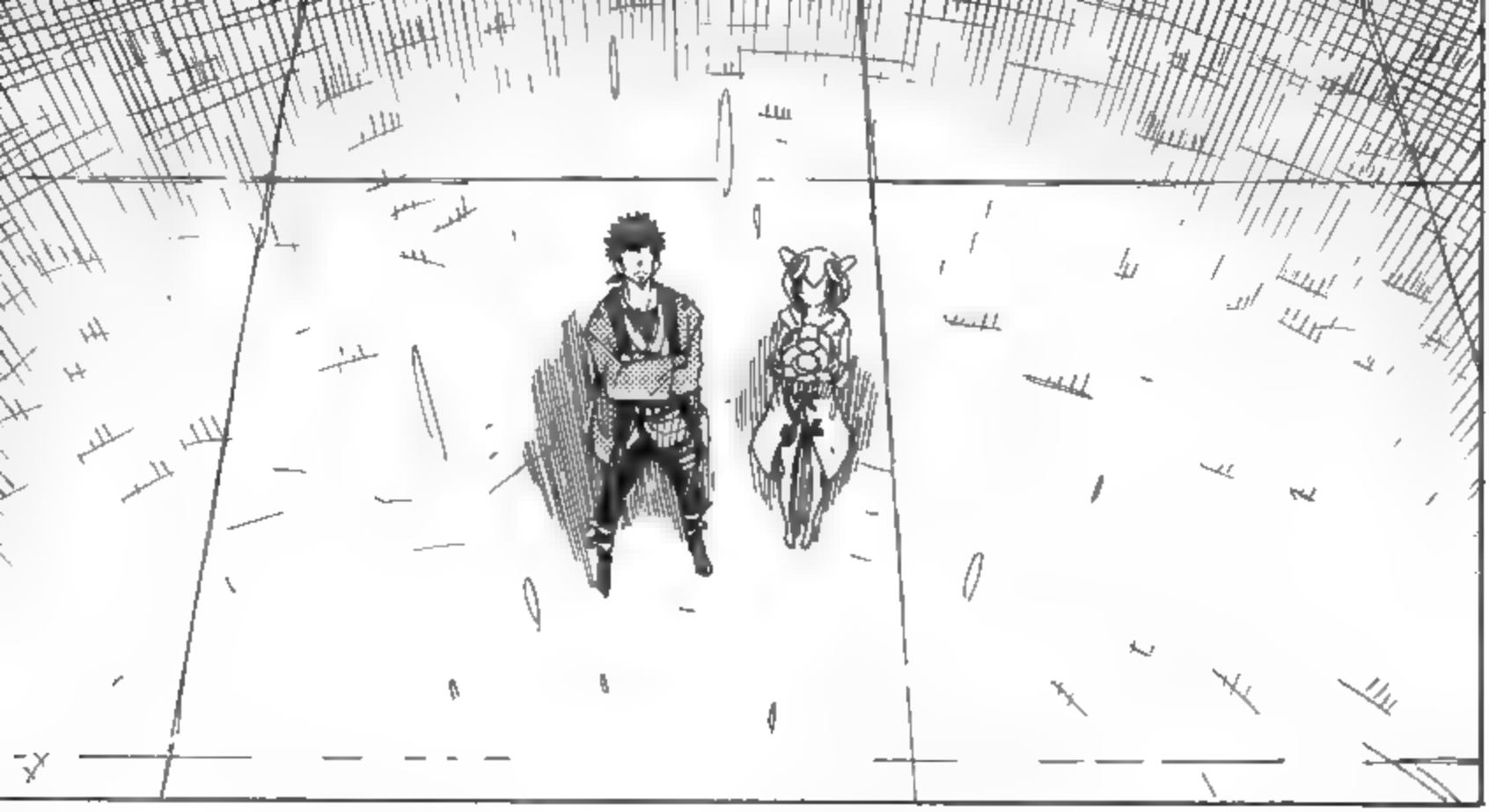
NOPE.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU I COULD SEE HEAVEN?

HEH... YOU GOT ME THERE...

YOU SURE GOT ME THERE...

FU (SST)



ON THAT NIGHT...

...A HUGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SAW A FAINT PILLAR OF LIGHT RISING UP FROM THE YASOGAMI DAM, THEY SAY.

IT WAS A WARM LIGHT.

...MR. KYOUMA INSISTS THAT IT WAS ONLY THE SATELLITE LASER.

HE'S CON-TRARY LIKE THAT.

K.K.

BO BO BO (PUTTER)

ALL THAT MATTERS IS WE NABBED THE NUMBERS.

...MR. ALBERT AND MISS ELLIE BOTH LEFT BEFORE US.

DON'T CARE.

CHARA (CLINK)

EEHH!!?

I RECOV-ERED IT WITHOUT A SCRATCH! WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO AND DESTROY IT!?

AIN'T NOTHIN' GOOD GONNA COME FROM LEAVING ANY OF THESE THINGS INTACT.

PO! (TOSS)

NO..... NEVER MIND.....

WHAT? YOU GOT A PROBLEM?

GORON! (ROLL)

ゴロン

OHH... BUT...

IF HE HATES COILS, THEN WHY DOES HE WORK IN A PROFES-SION THAT DIRECTLY INVOLVES THEM...?

WHY DOES HE HATE COILS SO MUCH?

WHO IS HE REAL-LY?

MR. KYOUMA IS STILL A MYSTERY TO ME.

WHO DID IT TURN OUT TO BE?

THE PERSON WHO SWITCHED THE WATER IN THE STUDY...

SOMEONE ELSE WAS INVOLVED WITH MR. SHIROU'S REVENGE, RIGHT? AN ACCOMPLICE?

COME TO THINK OF IT, MR. KYOUMA ...

THAT SAID, I'VE GOT MY SUSPICIONS...

IF IT DON'T GOT TO DO WITH COLLECTIN', IT DON'T GOT TO DO WITH ME.

I'VE SAID THIS BEFORE, AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN— I AIN'T A COP.

...THEY CER-TAINLY WOULD BE.

...THEY'D BE HARD-PRESSED TO PROVE GUILT.

...BUT EVEN IF THEY MADE AN ARREST...

...MY FATHER WAS ON NIGHT DUTY AT DAM #1...

AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT...

.....ALL RIGHT. KIYOMI KATOU. SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE VOICE OF YOUR LATE FATHER TOLD YOU TO DO IT?

...YES.

EVEN NOW...

...HE'S JUST BEYOND THAT WINDOW...

DIMENSION W 4 END

Dimension W

RIDE THE

POWER TRIP

YOU'VE READ THE MANGA—NOW WATCH THE ANIM

TURISTIC, SCI-FI ACTION IS STREAMING ON FUNIM ONNOW

FUNIMATION.COM/DIMENSIONW

Funimat

INTRODUCTION TO DIMENSION W

W

CHAPTER 4

No. 4: New Tesla Energy D.A.B.

Welcome to "Introduction to Dimension W."

I am Rose, your android guide.

"D.A.B." stands for:
*D*imension
*A*dministrative
*B*ureau
...and when pronounced aloud, it is often either spelled out as "D.A.B." or called "Dab" for short.

...the D.A.B.

This time, I'll elaborate on New Tesla Energy's cleaners ...

DAB

No surprise pronunciations here.

For the more dangerous duties, the best of the best are called to take on the challenge — the D.A.B. special ops force "Q.I."

Qi

Their main duties include investigating Coil accidents and illegal Coil use, dealing with dimensional damage caused by Coils, and so on.

The D.A.B.'s mission is "to investigate and control the effects of Coils and Dimension W on the global environment."

"Q.I." is short for "Q-investigation force"; the "Q" refers to Coils.

(The D.A.B. itself has offices inside every Tower.)

Q.I. Headquarters Locations

Europe/Russia
Q.I.1
N. America
Q.I.3
Asia
Q.I.6
Africa
Q.I.2
Q.I.4
S. America
Oceania
Q.I.5

The Q.I. force is divided into "Q.I.1" through "Q.I.6." Each team is assigned to a different region.

"Q.I.6," the team tasked with the Asia region, operates out of Tower 47.

Leading the Q.I.6 is Chief Investigator ***Albert Schumann.***

WHY, HELLO!

Special Protection Power Suit (S.P.P.S.)

Q.I. is made up exclusively of troops who were recommended from military or police forces and who also passed rigorous evaluations.

For that reason, the majority of members are men.

Qi6

DAB

Well? Won't you apply for a recommendation and sign up today?

TO BE CONTINUED

APPENDIX.01
TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan (also ***-tan***): An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-senpai: An honorific used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.

-sensei: A respectful honorific for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

PAGE 16

Happi coats, the traditional Japanese coat that Kyouma wears, were historically worn by servants and firefighters, and had an identifying family or group crest on their backs. In modern Japan, they're typically only worn to festivals.

PAGE 32

Not only do the names ***Shirou Kamiki*** and ***Shijuurou Sakaki*** have phonetic similarities, the way they're written in kanji shows a connection, as well. The "shi" and "rou" are written with the same kanji in both first names, with an extra character (juu/ten) added in to create the name Shijuurou. As for the last names, ***Kamiki*** is written with two kanji (kami/god + ki/tree), but if you swap their order and then push them together to make a single character, you get the kanji for ***Sakaki.***

Dimension W

by YUJI IWAHARA

Translation: Amanda Haley • Lettering: Phil Christie

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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